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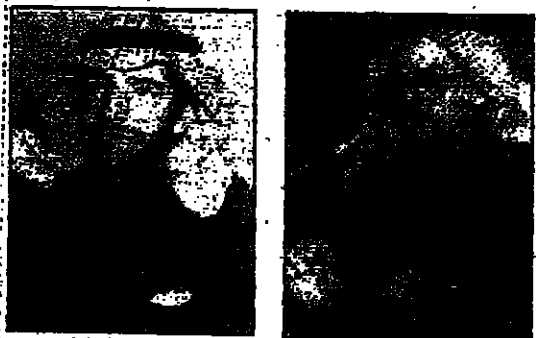
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NO. 7863 MONDAY, MAY 7, 1990/SHAWWAL 12, 1410 AH 24 PAGES 150 FILLS

Council no substitute

Voting national duty: Sheikh Salem



Khalaf Al Saad

Othman Al Saad

Candidates speak

Tal Othman Al Saad, 37, running for Jahra believes it is still too early for women to vote. "Maybe in 20 years... Today it is not accepted to knock on somebody's door and ask to discuss your campaign with his wife or daughter."

Saad who is against tribal allegiances said that he represents all people in his district and not only those in his tribe. He expects many withdrawals after registration closing date. "At the end the number of competitors in my constituency will shrink to 6."

The Nabat poet who started campaigning in January right after the Amiri announcement of the Interior National Council believes that taking part in the new council enhances a citizen's loyalty to Kuwait.

"This council doesn't mean that there will be a change in the constitution, according to what I understand," Saad said adding that the National Assembly did not succeed in finding solutions for a number of economic difficulties in Kuwait.

Ali Abdulla Khalaf Al Saad, 40, an ex-member of the 1985 National Assembly called on Kuwaiti people to participate in the elections and fulfil the wish of HH the Amir who is considered a father of all Kuwaitis.

The ex-pilot in the army sees his candidacy as one way of serving his country.

Saad believes that the main function of candidates is to convey the public's views to officials on economic and housing issues.

By Diana Abou Haidar and Lima Al Khalafawi Arab Times staff

VOTING is both a national duty and a right to be practised by every citizen, said the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah who visited the Election Department at Sharq yesterday.

The minister stressed that the Interior National Council is not a substitute for the National Assembly as the Amir desires clearly states.

He expected the number of candidates to double within the next three days especially towards closing day on May 9.

By yesterday 302 candidates had registered for the upcoming elections including: Ali Abdulla Khalaf Al Saad and Khalaf Dhaif Al Inzi, ex-members of the 1985 National Assembly.

This raises the number of ex-parliamentarians to 14, ten of which were members of the 1985 session, two of 1981, and one each of 1971 and 1975.

Salem Zaman Al Sulaimani of Jahra and Fahed Sha' Al Ajmi of Fahaheel withdrew yesterday. Candidates

Supplement

Hungary in Kuwait

Glasnost in Hungary has apparently given renewed vigour to that country. The Hungarians are now pushing tourism and investments opportunities at a week-long festival in Kuwait. A special four page supplement in today's Arab Times issue projects that country's latest aspirations. (Pages 11-14)

10 years for maid rape

A POLICEMAN who was convicted by the Criminal Court of raping a Filipino maid appealed to the Higher Appeal Court who also upheld the verdict.

The accused then moved the Cassation Court who after deliberations sentenced him to ten years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation.

The court was told that the maid had been detained at a police centre for having illicit sex with another Filipino male at the premises of her employer's residence.

The defendant was called upon to transport the maid from the police centre to another that had a special place for detaining women. The distance between the two centres was only 15 minutes, but the accused brought the maid after a period of an hour and half.

The court was told that to cover up the lapse of time, the accused forced the departure and arrival registered to reflect that he had transported the maid in a quarter of an hour. However, his tampering with the register supported the claim of the defence of the maid.



Man on stilts

Aman on stilts starts the 15th edition of the Marathon of Paris on the Champs Elysees avenue, his back to the Arch de Triomphe, in Paris yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bomb kills 12 on Pakistani express train

LAHORE, May 6, (AP): A bomb ripped through the first-class car of an express passenger train near the troubled border with India today, killing at least 12 people and injuring 41, authorities said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. Authorities refused to speculate about who planted the bomb but said it was sabotage.

The bomb exploded about 3 pm (1000 GMT) in the restaurant of the first-class car, according to Muhammad Iqbal Beg, stationmaster at the tiny Badami Bagh station where the train stopped for about a

minute to allow the track ahead to clear. The station is just outside Lahore. The city is 15 miles (24 kms) from the India-Pakistan border.

The 10-car Tez Gam Express, Pakistan's fastest train, was travelling to the southern port city of Karachi from Rawalpindi, adjacent to the federal capital of Islamabad. Trains in Pakistan are always crowded. Authorities said the first-class car, the only one damaged in the explosion, had a 40-person capacity but was carrying 60 people. Many of the 3,000 residents who converged on the site blamed India for the bombing.

Police had earlier put the casualty figure at 15 dead and 50 injured. But they said later this was incorrect and issued a revised death toll of at least 12 with 41 injured.

"This obviously was sabotage," a railway spokesman in the Pakistani capital Islamabad said. But he declined to speculate on who planted the bomb.

Punjab police chief Manzoor Ahmad last month blamed unspecified foreigners for a series of bomb blasts in the country's most populous province, which borders India's troubled Punjab state.

Zardari denies corruption

DUBAI, May 6, (Reuters): The husband of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto denied corruption charges against him in an interview published today.

"You hit me and you hurt her (Benazir)," Asif Ali Zardari was quoted as saying by the English-language Gulf News newspaper during a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Opposition politicians in Pakistan allege that Zardari was involved in a scandal over theft of \$880,000 meant to build a hospital.

Crack down!

Singh demands punishment

NEW DELHI, May 6, (AP): Prime Minister V.P. Singh called today for a crackdown on India's increasingly violent separatist groups in Kashmir and Punjab.

In a letter to the heads of India's 25 states, Singh blamed "anti-India agencies from across the border" for secessionist violence that has left more than 1,000

people dead this year. He was referring to neighbouring Pakistan.

Such groups have a "sinister design" to throw India into chaos, he said.

State intelligence bureaus were ordered to increase their surveillance of suspicious elements and their activities, according to a partial text of the letter carried by two Indian news services.



Soviets clear path

The Soviet Union has cleared the path to rapid German unity, avoiding a stubborn dispute over Nato membership and prompting West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to speak today of an "historic event for Germany and Europe."

Moscow's opposition to Western demands that a united Germany be anchored in Nato was the main stumbling block at talks here between both Germanys and the four World War Two victors—the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) retained their position as East Germany's strongest political force in local elections today but lost votes to the Social Democrats (SPD), grassroots groups and independent candidates. Pictures show foreign ministers of Germany and the four World War Two allies address a joint news conference in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto).

Scholars attack

Future of Islam debate

ALGIERS, May 6, (Reuters): Islamic scholars and intellectuals at a conference on the future of Islam have attacked fundamentalist groups gaining ground in many Muslim countries as intolerant and dismissive of women.

In lively debate last night and today after a panel on priorities of the Islamic movement, speakers said some fundamentalist groups that preached strict separation of the sexes were acting against the teachings and interests of Islam.

"Women are one half of our society and the other half is educated through their hands and care. How can we achieve a renaissance of our nation if they are blocked?" asked Rachid Ghannouchi, exiled leader of Tunisia's opposition Nahdha Movement.

He was joined by thinkers from Morocco, Syria and Egypt who denounced as despotic unnamed Islamic groups that claim to be the sole interpreters of God's word.

They accuse those who are not members of their party of being non-believers, and confuse secularists and non-believers," said Syrian writer Burhan Ghalyoun.

Algeria, where the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front is mounting a strong challenge to the ruling party, is hosting a four-day conference organised by the London-based Centre for Studies on the Future of Islam.

FIS leaders were not invited to speak on the grounds the conference was open to religious, not political figures.

Ghannouchi said that "Islamic organisations feel revulsion for diversity. Their members are educated according to a simplistic model... they are attached to a group of scholars or a single one as if he is the official spokesman of truth."

Mohammed Amara, an Egyptian researcher, said Islamic movements should open a dialogue with secularists who wanted to separate mosque and state rather than brand them as heretics.



Train crash

An injured man is comforted by another injured victim of a train crash on the outskirts of Sydney yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto) See also Page 2.

Jordan to sell exemption

AMMAN, May 6, (Reuters): Jordan has decided to sell exemption from military service to citizens working abroad.

The cost of exemption is likely to be around \$10,000 payable in foreign currency, a cabinet minister who declined to be named told Reuters today.

The buy-out has often been requested by spokesmen for 375,000 Jordanians employed abroad, most of whom live in Gulf oil states. The government, burdened with foreign debt, needs the cash.

The Interior Ministry announced today that it will stop issuing licences for men to own beauty parlours and also banned male beauticians from working in them.

The decision came in response to demands by Islamic fundamentalists in Jordan's 80-member Parliament.

A senior ministry official told the Associated Press by telephone that the decision will not affect men who have already been issued beauty parlour permits.

Origin of Marcos treasure!

MANILA, May 6, (Reuters): A jailed military officer said today he was ready to testify before a US court that Ferdinand Marcos' wealth came from a World War Two board of gold the former dictator unearthed in the Philippines.

But a government spokesman said the late Philippine president used the story of the gold "as a cover-up for the lifetime plunder for which Marcos is known."

"I have personal knowledge that Marcos found some, if not most, of the so-called Yamashita treasure," ex-colonel and former provincial governor Orlando Dulay said in his maximum security prison cell at the national penitentiary near Manila.

The treasure was supposedly buried by Japanese forces under general Tomoyuki Yamashita during their occupation of the Philippines during World War Two.

Lawyers for Marcos' wife, Imelda, who is on trial in New York on fraud and racketeering charges, said Dulay's testimony would prove the former president did not plunder his country during his 20-year rule.



Marking liberation

Citizens of Pizen, Czechoslovakia wave American flags during celebrations marking the liberation of their town by US troops at the end of World War Two. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arafat summons fighters to Iraq

PLO discusses summit

AMMAN, May 6, (Agencies): PLO chief Yasser Arafat today ordered about 2,500 of his fighters based in Jordan to move to Iraq to help protect it against Israeli attack, PLO officials said.

"Arafat asked all active military ranks present in Jordan including the reserves, to go to Baghdad before May 15, mainly to protect Iraq against a possible Israeli assault and for training purposes," one official told Reuters.

PLO officials said the fighters involved had moved to Jordan after being forced out of Lebanon by the Israeli invasion in 1982. Most are members of Fatah, led by Arafat and the largest group within the PLO.

Members of the 4,000-strong Amman-based Palestine Liberation Army founded in the mid-1960s as a nucleus for a Palestinian army, are not included in the redeployment. The PLA also has units in Egypt, Syria and Iraq.

Arafat warned Israel last month not to attack, saying it had binary chemical arms with which to retaliate. The warning was issued after Britain said it had seized nuclear triggers bound for Iraq.

Another Palestinian official said commandos in Sudan and Algeria would also be redeployed for training.

The PLO's executive committee discussed its plans for a proposed emergency Arab summit in Baghdad later this month and would issue a final declaration a PLO spokesman said.

The committee, chaired by Arafat, drafted the communique in a meeting in Baghdad last yesterday. The spokesman said the declaration would call for the summit to take a unified Arab stand towards the current exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied Arab territories. At least 15 states of the 22-member Arab League have declared support for the summit, which was proposed by Arafat. They do not include Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria — three of the Arab world's most influential countries.

● Talks started today between Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on ending a decade-long rift between Syria and Iraq.

The talks came amid a flurry of visits between Arab capitals as envoys gauge whether a summit proposed for Baghdad later this month will get off the ground.

The Saudi Prince held discussions with Saddam's deputy Izzat Ibrahim hours after his arrival in Baghdad from the Syrian capital of Damascus, Saudi officials said.

A Saudi Ministry of Information official accompanying Abdullah said he will deliver a message from King Fahd to Saddam dealing with bilateral relations and Arab issues of mutual concern.

Ibrahim was quoted by the official television as saying the Abdullah visit was important because "it

Jam-packed minors jail

Israeli abuses

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6, (Reuters): An international children's rights group has accused Israel of holding Palestinian minors in inhuman conditions at a jam-packed Jerusalem jail where many are beaten by guards.

The scathing report on the Russian compound, just off Jerusalem's main shopping street, was issued yesterday by the Geneva-based group Defence for Children International.

"The most severe impression was the inhuman overcrowding in the youth wing," it said.

The compound was built by Russian clergy in the 19th century. Part of it was converted to a police station and lock-up under the pre-1948 British mandate.

Representatives of the group visited the compound. The report cited interviews in April with 39 minors who complained of beatings by warders.

"There were also complaints of having been beaten on their way to visit the doctor, so now they avoid going to him," it said.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem said it too was investigating abuse of minors at the Russian compound.

"It is not rare," B'tselem researcher Naama Yashai told Reuters. "We have much evidence of physical abuse and maltreatment of children during investigations and at other times."

DCI representatives found 83 minors aged 14-18 held in four cells. Because Arab and Jewish prisoners are segregated one of the four cells held only two Jewish youths. There were 34 beds in the youth wing.

■ Israeli troops shot dead a 16-year-old Arab youth in the occupied Gaza Strip today during a general strike called to support Palestinian prisoners — Story Page 18.

Hostage kin urge Rushdie to stop book plan; Hezbollah accuses US of instigation

LONDON, May 6, (Agencies): Relatives of British hostages urged author Salman Rushdie today to cancel any plans for a paperback edition of his controversial book "The Satanic Verses" to improve relations with Iran and help free the captives.

David Waite, brother of British hostage Terry Waite, also called on Rushdie to apologise to the Muslim community for any offence caused by the book, "whether it is intentional or not."

Meanwhile, Iranian-backed Hezbollah said today it does not hold Western hostages and accused the United States of instigating and backing the hostage-taking process in Lebanon.

The statement was made by Hajj Abu Yasser, a senior

Hezbollah leader, during a live question and answer session broadcast by the party's Al-Nour radio station.

"We have repeatedly announced that we have not kidnapped any hostages. If we were the group holding the hostages, we would have the courage to announce it," the official said.

Iran broke diplomatic relations with Britain in February 1989 after the country's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, ordered Muslims to kill the Indian-born British author for allegedly blaspheming Islam in the novel. Britain has staunchly defended his right to freedom of speech.

The diplomatic rupture is seen as a key obstacle to the release of Waite and three other British hostages in

Lebanon, journalist John McCarthy, retired pilot Jack Mann, and teacher Brian Keenan who has dual Irish and British citizenship.

"I don't believe it is right for this death sentence to have been put on Salman Rushdie. I do believe that Salman Rushdie has proved to himself and to everyone else that there is free speech in this country. His hardback has sold over 250,000 copies in this country," David Waite said on TV-AM.

"This book has caused great offence to the Muslim community and I believe that he ought to apologise for the offence that has been caused, whether it is intentional or not, and refrain from having this paperback published," he said.

Pat McCarthy was quoted in the Mail on Sunday as blaming "The Satanic Verses" for the cuts in diplomatic ties with Iran and the long captivity of his son, John, and the other British hostages. He also called on the publisher, Viking Penguin, to scrap the paperback.

"Had the book not been published John might be here now," he was quoted as saying. "I think the whole book should have been burned or suspended or something because they had a warning it was going to cause a lot of trouble. That's not giving in to terrorism because, at that time, it was not a terrorist issue."

(Continued on Page 2)

Janata Dal to hold elections on May 20

Efforts continue to evolve consensus

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 6: Elections to choose an interim president for the Janata Dal the main constituent of India's Ruling National Front, will now be held on May 20.

The polling was originally scheduled for May 1, but was suddenly postponed because of "practical difficulties", a phrase that most observers interpreted

to mean that the party leadership wanted to avoid the bitterness of a contest.

Efforts are still continuing to evolve a consensus on the choice of the interim president, who will hold office till regular organisational elections are held later this year.

There are three candidates in the fray — party general secretary S. Jaipal Reddy, former Karnataka chief minister S.R. Bommai and Lok Sabha

member Hukum Dev Narayan Yadav.

The elections, necessitated by Prime Minister V.P. Singh's resignation from the party post, has not been without controversy. At one stage it looked like the May 1, poll would turn out to be a trial of strength between the Singh and Devi Lal factions in the party, a fact that must have largely influenced the decision to postpone the voting.

Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal had made known his opposition to any "consensus" candidate earlier and announced his support for Bommai.

Devi Lal is learnt to have made his displeasure known to Singh in a long letter in which he also demanded early election on what is called the "slip system." Under this, there are no candidates and all the voters are given a slip of paper on which they can write down their choice for president. This he felt would avoid groupism in the party.

Devi Lal said in his letter that the postponement of the elections had put a question mark on the party's ability to hold democratic elections. "If we adopt this system of working, we may also go for the Congress way and be thrown in the dustbin of history," he is understood to have said in his letter.

The election was mainly a contest between Reddy and Bommai, with Yadav not given much chance of winning. But Yadav has consistently refused to withdraw from the fray, saying he decided to file his nomination only to ensure there was a proper contest. Yadav has been outspoken in his criticism of the move to defer the polling.

Bommai enjoys the support of Devi Lal and some of the chief ministers owing allegiance to the Deputy Prime Minister. Though Singh has not indicated his own preference, it is generally believed that he would prefer Reddy to take on the responsibility. Reddy has for a long time been functioning as the party spokesman with great success.

Polling will be held in the respective state capitals: The 2000-strong electorate will consist of all the party members of legislative assemblies and councils in the states and all those who fought the recent Lok Sabha and state assembly elections on the Janata Dal symbol.

The fresh schedule was announced by Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate, who is the returning officer before he left for Washington to attend meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.



Rescue workers look over the wreckage of a commuter train and a steam train which collided in a tunnel on the outskirts of Sydney. (Reuters wirephoto)

Train collision

Six killed, 90 hurt

SYDNEY, May 6. (AP): A modern, double-decker passenger train collided today with an old-fashioned steam train chugged by jazz music fans, killing at least six people and injuring 90, police said.

The crash occurred in a remote area about 25 miles (40 kilometres) north of Sydney, and the only access to the wreckage was a dirt track through dense brush. Many of the injured had to be carried more than 500 yards (metres) to waiting ambulances, witnesses said.

The inter-city passenger train, with about 100 people aboard, was heading from Newcastle to Sydney when it slammed into the back of the steam train, splintering some of the older train's wooden carriages.

Passengers and witnesses said the steam train had failed to make it up a steep grade.

There were dead and injured on both trains, and Australian television showed people trapped in the mangled wreckage.

Twenty ambulances raced from Sydney to ferry victims to nearby hospitals, and helicopters picked up some of the seriously injured passengers.

The steam train, carrying about 330 jazz buffs, was travelling south after a day trip to the Hunter Valley, 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of Sydney.

A spokesman for Gosford

police said the accident took place between two tunnels, about 3 miles (5 kilometres) south of the hamlet of Brooklyn.

Passengers on the inter-urban train said their train stopped briefly behind the steam train.

"The driver told us we would be about 10 minutes as the steam train didn't have enough power to get up the hill," said a passenger, Justine Reis.

"We stayed there for a while, then started up around a curve and next thing, bang. People were thrown everywhere. They just got thrown from their seats."

Another passenger, Ben Shaw, said the impact came without warning.

"We waited for about five minutes, then we took off and just hit. People were flying everywhere," he said.

Richard Stohr, a passenger in the second carriage of the inter-urban train, said modern, electric train appeared to be trying to pick up speed to tackle the hill when it came out of a tunnel and slammed into the back of a stationary train.

"A woman just flew past me. Just sailed past," he said. "I think she was killed."

Guy Flower, a crewman on a rescue helicopter, said the crash scene looked like a "horror movie, with a heavy smell of broken timber."

Air crash kills 6

'Plot' against Prabhakaran

COLOMBIA, May 6. (Kuna): A delegation of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), led by doctor Anton Balasingham, has informed the commanding officer of the northern force in Sri Lanka, that the cadres of the illegal Tamil National Army (TNA) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) have infiltrated into the northern Jaffna province and there was a plot to assassinate the LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, security sources based in the north said today.

The delegation also informed the commanding officer the TNA and the EPRLF gunmen were planning to attack the Sri Lankan security forces and put the blame on the

LTTE, these sources said.

The delegation also had requested that the security forces based in the northern province be given LTTE escorts when they leave their stations.

The security sources further said that the commanding officer of the Sri Lankan security forces totally rejected the offer of escorts to the security forces but had noted the other points put forward by the LTTE delegation.

● Six air force men were killed when their helicopter crashed during a search for a gang of thieves that had robbed a tourist hotel in central Sri Lanka, a military officer said.

Exchange of fire

2 Pakistanis killed: India

JAMMU, India, May 6. (Agencies): Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged gunfire in a tense sector of the line dividing disputed Kashmir, and two Pakistani soldiers were believed killed, Indian officials said today.

Indian police also reported two major clashes with militants in the Kashmir valley that killed 11 people.

In the Punch sector of the line that divides the one-third of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan from Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, the two armies shoot at each other almost every day. Casualties, however, are relatively rare.

India is keen to seal the line separating the two Kashmiris to prevent alleged infiltration by militants fighting Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan denied Indian allegations that it arms and trains the militants in the part of Kashmir it controls.

In the clashes with militants, Indian police said a paramilitary force doctor and one member of his unit were killed in an ambush in the southern Kashmir valley on Friday. Five militants were killed, they said.

Four more militants were killed yesterday after opening fire on a patrol that challenged them in the northern part of the valley, Indian police said today. India says it has killed dozens of militants trying to enter the Kashmir valley from Pakistan in the four months since a long-running agitation against Indian rule exploded into an uprising. At least 300 people have been killed this year.

It has told Pakistan bluntly to stem the infiltrations, warning it would do whatever necessary to halt the flow if Pakistan did not. Delhi has not ruled out military action.

Indian officials say the most dangerous phase should start in mid-May when the high Himalayan passes into the Kashmir valley normally become passable as winter snows melt.

In Islamabad, a spokesman for the Pakistan army said the only casualty of Indian firing in Kashmir was a farmer working in his fields in the Leepa sector north of Punch.

Farmer Zamin Shah from Bella village was killed yesterday in a field close to the ceasefire line.

"He was just looking after his field and they shot him," the spokesman said. "There has been generally an exchange of firing at various places but there has been no killing in the Punch sector."

Indian authorities apparently concerned about possible Muslim separatist violence boosted deployments today of troops and paramilitary police across Srinagar on the eve of the opening of state government offices.

In other developments, police sources reported the deaths late yesterday of five people, including four militants, in violence related to the popular uprising.

Security across Srinagar was further intensified a day before state government offices were to open at the beginning of the annual six-month period during which they function in the city.

For the harsh Himalayan winter months, the bureaucracy moved back to the winter capital of Jammu.

Troops in full combat gear and paramilitary police personnel were seen posted in increased numbers across Srinagar and patrolling was strengthened.

Security forces manning roadblocks for second day sealed off all approaches to the civil lines area, where the bulk of the state government offices are located. The state secretariat, the main administrative headquarters, was taken over by the army.

Additional security personnel were also posted at the housing complexes where Jammu-based civil servants were to stay.

Despite the massive preparations, however, there were no indications that more than 3,000 Hindu employees, or about 40 per cent of the total government workforce, were prepared to drop their refusal to shift from Jammu to Srinagar.

The workers have balked at moving to Kashmir out of fears of attacks by Muslim separatists engineering the movement for independence.

The officials said the border shooting started yesterday in the Soker area of Punch district, where the two armies routinely exchange fire, which Pakistani soldiers started building a bunker in no-man's land.

Pakistani soldiers were seen carrying away two limp bodies of their colleagues, and Indian officers believed them to be dead.



Hunger strike

Hindu priests hunger strike outside a temple in the North Indian town of Mathura in protest at their high priest Swami Sarupanand Saraswati's arrest. He was arrested on May 1 when he attempted to march with followers to the town of Ayodhya and lay the foundation stone for a new shrine. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arafat

(Continued from Page 1)

comes at the height of positive developments in inter-Arab relations.

Arab diplomats said the Saudi Prince is expected to discuss with Saddam efforts to convene an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad later this month to discuss Middle East peace moves, the Soviet Jewish influx into Israel and Lebanon.

The Iraqis have also said they would like to have perceived threats from Israel and the West against them discussed, but Syrian officials have indicated they do not take the issue seriously. Ibrahim was quoted by the television as saying that the summit will discuss "all issues which concern the Arab nation."

In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak met today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal.

Egyptian sources said they discussed the upcoming Arab summit and mediation attempts to end the Iraqi-Syrian rift. Mubarak also sent his senior political advisor to Amman with a letter for King Hussein. The sources said the letter concerned the same two issues.

Abdullah is scheduled to visit Cairo and Amman after Baghdad. In Damascus, no details of Abdullah's talks with Assad were disclosed.

Abdullah is also understood to be pressing Syria to end a seven-year-old feud with Arafat, who has close relations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Saudi envoy's trip to Syria coincided with a visit to Baghdad by

King Hussein of Jordan to persuade Saddam to reconcile with Assad. Many obstacles remain to be overcome before Syria and Iraq can improve relations.

Saddam is keen to hold the summit in Baghdad to demonstrate that the Arab world is behind him amid what he views as a concentrated Western campaign against him over his drive to build up his military arsenal.

The United States and Britain allege authorities intercepted Iraqi efforts to smuggle nuclear trigger devices and components for a huge "super gun" capable of firing chemical warheads against Israel.

Saddam claims the Western effort is aimed at seeing the stage for an Israeli attack to neutralise Iraq's burgeoning military power.

A well-informed Syrian source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Damascus government views the alleged "imperialist threat" against Iraq as "a joke."

An Egyptian envoy arrived in Amman today as part of intensive diplomacy ahead of a proposed Arab summit in Baghdad, a government official said.

He said Osama Al Baz, political adviser to Mubarak, went straight into talks with King Hussein after arriving on a previously unannounced trip.

The official told Reuters that Baz would also brief the King on the outcome of Mubarak's trip to Damascus which helped end 13 years of estrangement over Cairo's peace treaty with Israel.

Hostages

(Continued from Page 1)

Rushdie has said he wants "The Satanic Verses" published in paperback. Viking Penguin has not announced a decision though the Sunday Telegraph reported it is unlikely to publish it.

The conservative weekly said two letters published in the American literary magazine Mother Jones suggest that pressure has been put on the publishers not to bring out the paperback.

Asked why his group is constantly accused of holding the hostages, Hezbollah leader Abu Yasser said, "this could have arisen from the fact that Hezbollah has never publicly condemned those who employ the method of hostage-taking because Hezbollah knows the real reasons behind the hostage issue."

"The one who bears responsibility for this issue is the American administration because it is the one which instigated this line and it is the one which backed it," he added.

Abu Yasser charged that "thousands of downtrodden Muslims" were kidnapped by the

US-trained Lebanese army during former president Amr Gemayel's term between 1982 and 1983.

Most of them were seized before the scores of gunpoint abductions of Westerners started in West Beirut, and they are still unaccounted for, he said.

"If the United States is in a fix as a result of the occurrence of the hostage issue for which it bears the responsibility, then we are not concerned with condemning those behind the predicament of the American administration," Abu Yasser said.

Abu Yasser said the United States pays scant attention to the harsh practices of Israel in the region.

"It never condemns Zionist practices in Lebanon or Palestine or the Golan Heights," he said.

Instead it vetoes any UN Security Council condemnation of Israeli terrorist acts even if the condemnation is merely a lip-service expression without any practical content.

"So why should we then take the stand that serves the interests of the UN administration?" he said.

BT switches to new telephone code for London

LONDON, May 6. (UPI): After two years of planning and millions of dollars in advertising, British Telecom switched to a new telephone area code for London today.

The change, which BT said is needed because the capital is running out of available numbers, requires a new code for international calls to London and for calls from the inner city to and from the outer city.

Before today, all Londoners had the same area code, 01 domestically and 1 internationally, followed by seven digits, which are the only ones Londoners use to talk to each other.

The new system, which started minutes after midnight, splits the capital in half. Inner London and an extension east to the booming docklands, is coded 071 while outer London is coded 081.

Telephoning London from abroad requires Britain's country code: 44, followed by 071 or 081, and then the

seven digit telephone number.

The crossover has not been without problems. Surveys showed large numbers of business were unprepared and reported £5 million to 10 million (\$8.3 million to 16.6 million) advertising campaign still left many customers oblivious.

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BT said it is expecting the switch to go smoothly, but has installed a tape recording to reroute up to 50,000 calls a minute.

A fireworks display scheduled for last night near the Telecom Tower in central London was cancelled after warnings by police and fire officials.

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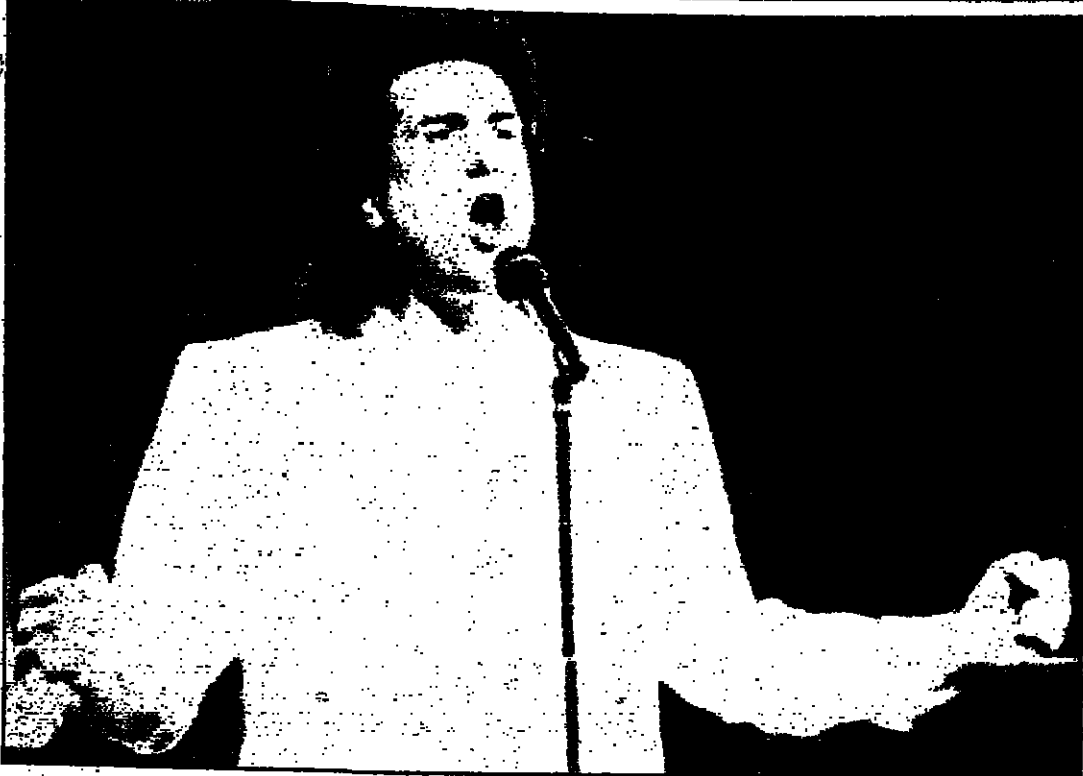
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Wins Eurovision contest

Toto Cutugno of Italy won the 35th Eurovision song contest on Saturday with a song called "Insieme 1992" inspired by the planned creation of a united Europe. Liam Neill of Ireland and Joelle Ursull of France shared second place in the competition broadcast from the north-western Yugoslav city of Zagreb to one billion television viewers across the world.

Cutugno, a successful singer, wrote the song himself. It includes the refrain "unite, unite Europe" — a reference to

the creation of a single market by the European Community in 1992.

Cutugno, who is in his early 40s but declined to give his exact age, was the first Italian to win the competition since Gino Paoli in 1964.

He scored 149 of a maximum 252 points awarded by judges from 22 countries. The two runners up scored 132 points (Reuter wirephoto).

Van Gogh film released

Explores artistic madness

AMSTERDAM, May 6, (Reuters) — The film is not about a famous artist, but about a failed person and his relationship with his family, says American director Robert Altman whose new movie on Vincent van Gogh has just opened in Europe.

A century after the Dutch artist committed suicide, Altman's "Vincent and Theo" focuses on the relationship between Vincent and his brother, described by Altman as like Siamese twins.

Then, an art dealer, financially supports Vincent and lived for only a few months after his death in 1890 at the age of 37. The Netherlands is marking the 100th anniversary of Van Gogh's death with a year-long programme, including exhibitions, operas, films and plays.

Altman's film explores how Van Gogh, whose works now sell for record prices, was driven to suicide by a sense of failure.

"I wanted to show the pain of a striving artist," said Altman on a visit to Amsterdam where the film recently had its world premiere.

"What I am trying to express to the audience is the wonder of an artist that has the drive to do something and never succeeds and years later is the most famous artist in the world," he added.

The film, which opened on May 3 in West Germany, and goes on show in June in Britain and in September in the United States and much of the rest of Europe, is the 65-year-old director's first attempt at a film set in European history.

"It was a very interesting time, and I deal with the art world, the hypocrisy of the art world, art critics, with other painters of the time, with money and sales and popularity," he said.

A veteran who has already produced 29 films including such hits as "Mash" and "Nashville", Altman found his biggest difficulty was contending with his crew's preconceptions about Van Gogh.

"Everyone had an opinion, so when I did something they didn't agree with, I could smell it," said Altman.

"I didn't want this film to imitate Van Gogh's look or his painting. There are many scenes where I purposely went against something I knew to be a fact and presented things that were not factually true but which I felt were emotionally true," he said.

For example, Van Gogh's friend, the artist Paul Gauguin, has a limp in the movie. In real life he did not acquire one until an accident after Van Gogh's death but Altman said he felt the limp helped round out the character.

Altman said he purposely did not read the published letters of Vincent to his brother or see the dozens of other films that have already been made on the artist in order to present his own, strictly personal, image of the artist.

What emerges is a character of raw emotion, reckless, uncouth and obsessive rather than likeable, and a Theo who holds on ambivalently to respectability to support the brother he loves but does not always understand.

"The film shows how emotionally connected they were. They were like Siamese twins, like two sides of the same coin," Altman said.

Altman chose two relatively unknown British actors for the lead parts — Tim Roth as Vincent and Paul Rhys as Theo.

"I figured there was already a star in the film and that is Van Gogh and to have a famous name actor would have confused the issue. We had many famous actors who wanted to play Vincent, but I wasn't interested," Altman said.

The film opens with the sale of Van Gogh's sunflowers for \$39.9 million at a Christie's auction in 1987 — at the time the highest price ever paid for a painting.

It shifts to a pipe-smoking Van Gogh, with tar-stained teeth, despondent in a decrepit Dutch hut where he is being told by Theo that the drawings he has done in the few months since he decided to become an artist are not particularly good.

A decade and thousands of paintings later, Van Gogh committed suicide, having sold only a single painting in his life.

"The fascination about Van Gogh is in the terrible, cruel irony of a person who never achieved success in his life and then his paintings are sold at obscene prices," Altman said.

Businessman murdered

Man records own killing

ORANGE BEACH, Alabama, May 6, (AP) — A businessman who carried a small tape recorder to a meeting recorded his own death, police said.

Robert Steven Lettermann, 46, was fatally stabbed Thursday after he went to the apartment of Clayton Huntley, 41, an unemployed dock hand, to recover some electronic equipment he believed was his, police said.

Lettermann was armed, but carried the recorder in his pants pocket to record the meeting. Instead, it recorded an argument between the two men and the sound of Lettermann being stabbed in the back with a kitchen knife, officials said.

Baldwin County coroner Huey Mack said the tape would be crucial to the investigation.

"You've got both of those people on recording. I'd rather have that than physical evidence," he said.

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Lennon concert held in Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, May 6, (UPI) — John Lennon's lyrics wafted over his hometown yesterday as an array of stars paid homage to the slain Beatles musician in a memorial concert that drew a small but enthusiastic crowd.

"It's a great day, isn't it," Lennon's widow Yoko Ono, said to about 15,000 people assembled at a venue on Liverpool's once-thriving waterfront. "I think John is happy too."

Lennon's former Beatles colleagues declined invitations from Ono to attend the event, but Ringo Starr sent a song on video which was played during the three-hour event.

Organisers said profits from sales of the 20 pound (\$32.80) tickets would go to the Spirit Foundation, a charity established by Lennon in 1978 which Ono said was "for the children of the world and the greening of the world."

The organisers had prepared for more than 45,000 people, and the concert setting, flanked by grand buildings from Liverpool's days as a great port, was only sparsely filled.

But those who came responded warmly to the retelling of stars, singing along to tunes written by the Liverpool native, who was shot to death outside his New York apartment in 1980.

Lennon's son Sean picked up a guitar and joined the performers on stage for a mass finale of "Give Peace a Chance."

Ono, wearing wrap-around sunglasses, appeared on the verge of tears during a stirring version of "Imagine" backed by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Earlier, Lou Reed delivered a doleful version of "Jealous Guy" and the Moody Blues crooned the enigmatic lyrics of "Across the Universe."

Natalie Cole proved the power of her vocal chords with "Ticket to Ride" and "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," and Al Green's treatment of "Power to the People" also set the crowd rolling.

Among the other artists performing at the 1.5 million pound (\$2.46 million) show were Roberta Flack, Cyndi Lauper, Joe Cocker, Randy Travis, Hall and Oates, and Terrence Trent Darby.

All played or sang for free, and organisers said they planned to broadcast the concert internationally Oct 9, which would have been Lennon's 50th birthday.

Many of the musicians said they had been personally influenced in their work by Lennon who challenged many social and political mores during the 1960s and '70s.

"One of the greatest tributes to an artist is for his work to live on and on, and that is what this is all about," Cole said during a news conference before the concert.

Festival

Abolished

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California, May 6, (AP) — A 58-year-old college festival wrecked by a weekend of rowdy rock throwing has been abolished.

California Polytechnic State University president Warren Baker called off future celebrations of the annual Poly Royal Festival for an indefinite period after a meeting Monday with Mayor Ron Dunn.

On Friday and last night, partygoers hurled rocks and bottles at police officers, who used tear-gas and fire hoses to disperse crowds. Sixty-four people were injured, including 14 police officers, and there were 110 arrests.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Car crash 3 kids die

RIVERSIDE, Illinois, May 6, (AP) — A speeding car veered through a baseball field yesterday, killing three young children and injuring nine other people before crashing into a building, officials said.

Two of the six children injured were reported in critical condition after the accident in Robinson park in this Chicago suburb.

"I saw a car driving through the field, and I saw it hitting kids," said Amy Ulrich, 14. "It was going kind of crazy and going real fast."

The car plowed through a fence into a bench on the third-base line, hitting people on the field before continuing across a busy street and ramming the glass and steel entrance to a medical clinic, police said.

"Thank God no one was in the area" of the clinic, said Anthony Christiano, a police officer in Berwyn, an adjoining suburb where the clinic is located.

The driver of the late-model Cadillac, a man who appeared about 50 years old, was coherent after the 1:30 pm (1835 GMT) accident and was taken to Macneal Memorial Hospital in Berwyn, Christiano said. He may have suffered a heart attack or some other medical problem, and there was no indication he had been drinking, the officer said.

All of the injured children were 7 or 8 years old, said Michael Maggio, spokesman for Loyola University Medical centre in Maywood, where most were treated. Three were killed, Maggio said.

Phone booth Fatal fight

NANTES, France, May 6, (AP) — When a stranger tried to cut short his 15-minute telephone call, a 47-year-old Frenchman flew into a fury, beating and kicking the stranger to death, police said.

The alleged killer, Jean-Marie Lupin, was charged yesterday with aggravated assault. Police said the victim, Daniel Droniou, 44, had grown impatient and tried to force his way into the public telephone booth where Lupin was making his call.



Guillotine show

Actors, working in record high temperatures, raise a seven-metre high guillotine in Brussels' historic Grand Place, during an outdoor avant-garde theatre show about the 1789 French Revolution. (Reuter wirephoto)

'There's water, water everywhere'

Flooding in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas

NEW YORK, May 6, (AP) — Flooding closed highways and forced scores of people from their homes yesterday in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas, and high water from last week's heavy rain crumbled levees and threatened at least one dam.

Texas' death toll from last week's storms rose to six. "There's water, water everywhere," said Gary Talley, spokesman for the Arkansas office of emergency services.

To say we have extensive flooding is pretty accurate and it's only going to get worse."

Texas emergency officials evacuated more than a dozen families in two rural counties south of Dallas overnight as levees along the Trinity river were washed out by record high water.

The river at Trinidad, 60 miles (95 kilometres) southeast of Dallas, was receding slowly after rising to nearly 20 feet

(7 metres) over flood stage yesterday, said an emergency management official, Travis Roberts.

The Trinity crested at Dallas on Thursday, forcing hundreds from their homes. Many were still out of their homes yesterday as the river began to recede slowly there.

More than 60 southeastern Oklahoma highways were under water yesterday and the number was expected to significantly increase as more water was released from overfilled reservoirs.

In eastern Oklahoma, the dam on Lake Frances threatened to break, which would send a torrent of water downstream into nearby Flint creek, Arkansas, and other small towns.

Also the Texas-Oklahoma border, Lake Texoma was almost 4 feet (1.5 metres) above its spillway yesterday, with about 30 mobile homes and 24 permanent structures under water around the huge lake.

Kilauea volcano lava hits the ocean

KALAPANA, May 6, (UPI) — Searing lava from Kilauea volcano threw a noose around the only store and remaining church in a remote rural community on the island of Hawaii before hitting the ocean, sending up billowing clouds of hazardous steam.

"The lava entered the ocean about 6 am yesterday at the site of the Star of the Sea Church," said Hawaii County Civil Defence administrator Harry Kim.

The 60-year-old church was lifted onto a flatbed truck and moved out of harm's way Friday. The church and four houses sat forlornly, but safely yesterday on truck beds along highway 130, the Kalapana bypass highway, well away from any danger.

Fingers of molten rock encircled the only store and a second church in the area on the southeast side of the island of Hawaii some 200 miles (360 km) from Honolulu.

Lava crossed highway 137, also known as old government road, to the east of the store and church and completely cutoff the Kalapana area to vehicular traffic.

No other structures were incinerated, leaving the total since the eruption started in January 1983 at 134. Damage in the seven-year-long eruption has been in excess of \$25 million.

Red-hot lava filled a brackish pond about 200 yards (200 m) from the shoreline and continued on into the ocean.

The 2,000-degree molten rock slid into one pond transforming it from a quiet pool of water into a furiously boiling cauldron of brown liquid on red-orange rock.

Palm trees near the pond were surrounded and slowly began to burn, while fronds dropping onto the lava burst instantly into flame.

Huge clouds of white steam from each of the incursions filled the sky causing a haze that shaded the brilliant Hawaiian sun.

The steam, called laze (lava-generated haze), posed a potential health hazard because the fiery rock hitting seawater generates hydrochloric acid and other potentially hazardous substances.

A warning was issued to the remaining residents in the picturesque area. The danger is greatest within one mile of the spot where the lava enters the sea, officials said.



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Blow to drug barons

Colombia uncovers factory

BOGOTA, May 6, (Reuters): Colombia has dealt a severe blow to its powerful drug traffickers, uncovering a major cocaine processing centre deep in the jungle and seizing 12 tonnes of the drug worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The raid on the complex, believed to be one of the most important in the country, is the biggest coup in the government's anti-drug fight since 13.8 tonnes of cocaine were seized at the Villa Coca processing centre in 1984.

"I was surprised at the amount. I had never seen so much cocaine in my life," General Humberto Correa, the army officer in charge of the operation, told Colombian radio last night.

Local radio said the pure cocaine was worth about \$360 million in the United States, where most Colombian cocaine ends up.

Army special forces backed by helicopters and air force planes swooped on the processing centre, hundreds of miles (km) east of Bogota, killing two people and detaining 17. They found 25 airstrips hidden in the jungle, seized four light aircraft, vehicles, weapons and radio equipment.

The complex, known as "La Petrolera," consists of three laboratories so remote they can be reached only by air or river, the army said.

Correa said the army had found 12 tonnes of cocaine in the operation, which began last Thursday and is still going on. An army spokesman said a tonne of coca paste had also been seized.

Correa said coca paste arrived at the centre from southern Colombia and Bolivia, was processed into cocaine and then sent to Mexico and the United States.

Colombia's Medellin and Cali cartels together supply 80 per cent of cocaine consumed in the United States, but officials did not say which group operated the processing centre.

The Colombian Navy also seized 214 kg (450 lbs) of cocaine on a boat and detained 10 crew members near the Caribbean island of San Andres on Saturday, local radio reported.

The drug busts will do much to restore morale in official circles after drug barons inflicted a series of blows since March when they launched a new offensive in their nine-month-old war with the state.

Police blame the drug barons for three car bomb blasts which killed 34 people, the shooting of about 30 policemen and the assassination of two leftist presidential candidates in the past two months.

The jungle raid almost triples the amount of cocaine found by Colombian security forces so far this year.

Police said yesterday they had arrested 2,102 people, seized 7,691 kg (16,920 lbs) of cocaine and 230,657 kg (507,445 lbs) of marijuana and raided 64 drug laboratories since Jan 1.

The reputed No. 3 man in Colombia's Cali drug cartel and an associate pleaded guilty to federal drug charges two weeks into their trial, after a defence attorney concluded the government had "an unbeatable case."

Luis Santacruz Echeverri, accused of handling the US end of shipments, pleaded guilty to 49 counts; Guillermo Penagos, reportedly his top lieutenant, admitted to 30 charges, court officials said Friday.

Jose Quinon, Santacruz's attorney, said he advised his client to make the plea after details of the government's case emerged.

"It was an unbeatable case, very well put together," Quinon said.

In exchange for the pleas, the government agreed to drop the most serious count, operating a continuing criminal enterprise, which carries a mandatory life prison sentence.

First Lady's homespun image rules her out as a fit model

Feminists furore over Barbara invitation

WELLESLEY, Massachusetts, May 6, (Reuters): US First Lady Barbara Bush has stirred a national debate by inciting the wrath of militant feminist students at a small Boston college where she is due to speak.

Feminists at Wellesley College say Mrs Bush, who is to be graduation speaker, has subordinated her life and career to that of her president-husband.

Her homespun, grandmotherly image rules her out as a fit model for ambitious women of the 1990s, they say.

Two decades after the bra-burning heyday of feminism, the protest against Mrs Bush, who dropped out of school to marry George Bush in 1945, has renewed national debate about a woman's choice between career or family.

Bush himself has become involved in the furore — assuring the young women of Wellesley they have a lot to learn from his wife.

"These young women can have a lot to learn from Barbara Bush and from her unselfishness and from her advocacy of literacy and from her being a good mother," he told a Washington news conference.

"To honour Barbara Bush as a commencement speaker is to honour a woman who has gained recognition through the achievements of her husband, which contradicts what we have been taught over the last four years," 150 students wrote in a petition to Wellesley president Nannerl Keohane.

Dr Keohane says Mrs Bush will still speak on June 1 and calls the whole debate healthy, albeit

complex. "Feminism is very hard to pin down, but it is certainly not anti-family," Keohane said in a recent interview.

Mrs Bush is known as a home-loving woman — a supportive wife and mother. But she says the students' protest is reasonable.

"I chose to live the life I've lived, and I think it's been a fabulously exciting, interesting, involved life... they're 21 years old and they're looking at life from that perspective. I don't disagree with what they're looking at," she told reporters at a White House lunch.

Opinion is split at Wellesley, an elegant, elite college of 2,200 students.

"I feel a bit embarrassed for poor Mrs Bush

coming here knowing people don't want her," said Joanna Dreil, a 1987 graduate.

"She's a perfectly nice woman who raised four children," said Dreil. "But we could have had any mother."

Vanny Em, a 21-year-old senior, favoured Mrs Bush's invitation. "We are students of today. We have choices that weren't available back then. They couldn't even fathom motherhood — we want it all," said Em.

Black feminist writer Alice Walker was originally chosen to speak but could not appear.

"Her (Mrs Bush's) professional achievements are not, I believe, as strong (as the other candidates). But being the wife of a President is a very tough job, very real," said freshman Felicia Wilkerson, 18.

Cargo plane crashes, 17 dead

GUATEMALA CITY, May 6, (AP): A cargo plane apparently lost an engine yesterday before it crashed into several houses in Guatemala City, killing its three crewmembers and at least 14 people on the ground, rescue workers said.

The US crew of the DC-6, owned by the Miami-based Aerial Transit Inc., had been carrying a load of snow peas and materials to Miami when it crashed in south-western Guatemala City, said US Embassy spokesman James Dickmeyer.

In addition to the dead crewmembers, rescue workers found the bodies of 12 people amid the rubble of several demolished homes, said city fire department spokesman Haroldo Juarez.

Two people died after being brought to a hospital, bringing the death toll to at least 17. The three crewmembers were reportedly the only people aboard the plane.

At least 10 people were hospitalized with burns.

Residents and rescue workers searched through the wreckage for more victims last night in the dimly lit streets of the Nueva Monserrat and Lomas Del Rodeo neighbourhoods north of the airport.

A series of explosions caused by several home propane gas tanks hampered their efforts, said rescue worker Enrique Boches.

City fire department spokesman Jorge Celis said the plane lost an engine and the pilot apparently had been looking for a small field for an emergency landing when the plane crashed.

He said an unidentified colleague of the civil aviation administration gave him the information.

A reporter who went to the scene said the aircraft plowed into a hill after crashing into several houses in a residential area just north of the airport, Dickmeyer said.

Dickmeyer said Guatemalan Civil Aeronautics. Authorities would lead the investigation of the incident.

Representatives of the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, the airplane's manufacturer McDonnell Douglas Corp. of St. Louis and Aerial Transit Inc. were expected to arrive in Guatemala City today to join in the investigation, he said.



'Jews out'

Vandals daubed anti-Semitic slogans at the East Berlin graves of German playwright Bertolt Brecht and his actress wife Helene Weigel, the city's Brecht Centre said on Saturday. 'Jews out' was spray-painted during the night on the wall behind the tombs and 'Jewish pig' on Brecht's gravestone. Police, who covered the slogans with linen sheets, said they had no clues as to who was responsible. The Brecht Centre said it would begin cleaning off the slogans immediately.

"Sheer anti-Semitism, outrageous and shocking at the same time," Brecht's daughter Barbara Schall-Brecht, was quoted as saying by the official East German news agency ADN. (Reuters wirephoto)

UK jurist to probe Israeli arms sale

ST. JOHN'S Antigua, May 6, (AP): A British jurist will head an inquiry into the transshipment of Israeli-made arms from Antigua and Barbuda to Colombian drug traffickers last year, the government has announced.

A statement issued by the government Friday said that Louis Blomcooper will arrive in Antigua next week for preliminary discussions with Legal Affairs Minister Keith Ford and Governor General Wildred Jacobs.

Implicated in the scandal is Minister of Public Works Vere Bird Jr, national security adviser to his father, Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr, who was named by the Antiguan official who ordered the arms shipment in November, 1988 for the Antiguan Defence Forces.

Bird Jr, 54, has denied any wrongdoing and has stepped down from his ministerial position until the matter has been resolved.

The scandal broke in February when Colombian authorities discovered a cache of Israeli-made arms in a ranch owned by reputed drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who died in a gun battle with police in December, 1989.

The Colombian authorities said they found 232 weapons, including rifles, shoulder-fired rockets and infrared night-scopes.

A preliminary investigation by a special committee set up in Antigua determined that the arms shipment sailed through this tiny island 250 miles (402 kilometres) southeast of Puerto Rico, on April 24, 1989, and arrived in Colombia five days later.

The government statement said Blomcooper was chosen by the cabinet on Friday because of his experience in conducting commissions of inquiry and his distinguished career as a jurist.

Blomcooper reportedly already has experience in the Caribbean, having conducted a commission of inquiry into a case of arson in a public building, corruption and other related matters in the Turks and Caicos in 1986.

See also Page 16

Zamora to ask help

LA PAZ, May 6, (Reuters): President Jaime Paz Zamora will ask US President George Bush for economic aid as proof of his commitment to help Andean nations fight drugs when the two meet in Washington next week, officials here said.

Paz Zamora is due to talk with Bush on Tuesday in their third meeting in nine months, in what officials here said would be the first official visit to the White House by a Bolivian president in 30 years.

On top of the agenda will be an analysis of progress since the February drug summit between Bush, Paz Zamora, Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Colombia's Virgilio Barco in Cartagena, Colombia.

Officials said Paz Zamora would ask Bush to back his pledge to help Andean nations fight drugs with aid for development, seen by the Bolivian administration as the only way of halting production of coca, the raw material for cocaine.

The Bolivian leader has made alternative economic development the centre of his anti-drug strategy.



Second round campaign

Peruvian presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori waves to the crowd while on a campaign stop in the outskirts of Lima on Saturday. Fujimori, candidate for the "Cambio 90" (Change 90) party, is preparing for the second round of elections which are due in a few weeks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Amnesty charges Peru

Abuses rife

LIMA, May 6, (Reuters): Peru's security forces are carrying out torture and other human rights abuses with growing impunity in their fight against leftist guerrillas, the head of Amnesty International said yesterday.

The country's human rights record this year has been at least as bad as in previous years and perhaps worse, said Ian Martin, secretary-general of the London-based organisation.

"These violations appear to be carried out with impunity. Even where investigations have established a case against members of the security forces, they have in fact not been brought to justice," Martin told a news conference.

Martin's view clashed with that of President Alan Garcia's government, whose leaders have said security forces were improving respect for human rights.

"The scale of these violations unfortunately has been as high or higher in 1989 and so far this year... as in previous years," he said.

Both government forces and leftist guerrillas were guilty of abuses but guerrilla crimes "do not justify the denial of the most fundamental human rights" by security forces, he said.

Salvador peace talks in Mexico

Jesuits case evidence vanishes

MEXICO CITY, May 6, (Reuters): Representatives from El Salvador's political parties met in Mexico City with leftist rebel leaders yesterday to discuss prospects for peace in their war-ravaged homeland.

Delegates from both sides in El Salvador's civil war were tight-lipped about the proposals they would make at the meeting. The talks brought together representatives of the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and eight political parties for the first time in more than a year.

The representatives, including rebel leader Shafik Handal, and Armando Calderon Sol, president of El Salvador's ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, said they were encouraged by progress towards peace after a decade of war.

"The conditions for peace are better than ever," Guillermo Ungo, head of the left-wing National Revolutionary Movement, told reporters before entering the closed-door talks at a hotel in southern Mexico City.

Handal said the meeting could lay the groundwork for direct peace talks this month between the FMLN and El Salvador's US-backed government.

He and other participants in the

talks here said they could last through Sunday afternoon.

A previous round of peace talks aimed at ending the Salvadoran conflict broke down in October, shortly before a rebel offensive which claimed more than 2,000 lives.

Some 75,000 people have died in the conflict.

● Evidence has vanished and potential witnesses failed to testify in El Salvador's investigation into the murder of six Jesuit priests last November, the court in charge of the case said yesterday.

In a statement carried by newspapers, the court quoted military authorities as saying a ledger of possibly key troop movements at San Salvador's military academy the night of the murders "has been mislaid."

The court added that four cadets on duty at the academy the night of the murders had left the country without testifying. The priests' housekeeper and her daughter also died in the attack.

El Salvador's investigation into the November 16 killings has recently come under heavy criticism.

A US House of Representatives task force on the murders said last week the probe was at a standstill.

Panama undecided over army formation, questions retaining pro-Noriega officers

PANAMA CITY, May 6, (AP): Panama's once-feared military is a shadow of its former self following the ouster of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega. Its new role and make-up are undecided.

The new public forces include officers who were loyal to the toppled dictator, and many Panamanians question whether they should have major roles in the new military. "Panamanians won't accept that officers of the old defence forces could be those who, in a democracy, control the police. To think about uniforming and arming those who for many years oppressed, punished and tortured is not an easy task," said the newspaper Panama-America.

Alberto Conte, head of the business coalition Civic

Crusade, said the makeup of the armed forces should be put to a vote.

Keeping Noriega's old officers "doesn't offer any guarantee that the new public forces will be efficient, respectful and demilitarised," said Conte, whose coalition is staunchly anti-Noriega.

Eusebio Marchosky, who is probing the alleged theft of state property by Noriega and his aides, said the old guard is hindering his work.

Retaining Noriega officers, he said, "is against the national will" and will stand as an obstacle to national reconciliation following the US invasion of Panama last December.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, Panama's second vice

president and minister of interior and justice, has said the new leaders chose to integrate the military with Noriega's officers because "to exclude them would be to judge them categorically and not as individuals."

In recent days, leaders of the civilian government have accused members of the new public forces of crimes.

Special prosecutor Rodrigo Miranda accused Capt. Leslie Loiza, head of the judicial police academy, of involvement in the recent killing of Marcos Rodriguez Justines, the 3-year-old nephew of former Col. Marcos Justines, second to Noriega and now in jail.

Forty-seven other Noriega officers are being held in jail on charges ranging from misdemeanours to murder.

Noriega surrendered to US invasion forces Jan 3 after

taking refuge in the Vatican Embassy in Panama City. He is awaiting trial on drug charges in Miami.

On the second day of the invasion, he said, "we had to decide whether to adopt the policy of starting from zero or taking the decision to make a call to service on new terms."

He said Panama would have been forced to ask US troops to remain for as many as three to five years if Panama had chosen to rebuild its defence forces from scratch.

Mario Rognoni, a legislator from Noriega's Democratic Revolutionary Party, said "the idea of demilitarising the country is an error because a modern state must have the necessary elements of security."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scores held in party-turned-riot: Hundreds of young people battled police with rocks and bottles overnight in a party-turned-riot that led to scores of arrests and several injuries in Chico, California, authorities reported.

At least five police officers were hurt clashing with an "extremely hostile and aggressive" mob that numbered about 1,000 people Friday night, a first department report said.

At least one gasoline bomb was tossed and police were pelted with bottles, rocks and beer cans. At least one policeman needed hospital treatment. (AP)

Exxon criminal trial put off: Exxon Corp. and its shipping company have persuaded a judge that criminal charges stemming from the nation's largest oil spill are too complicated to be heard as soon as June 18.

US District Judge Russel Holland has postponed the trial indefinitely.

The June 18 date was originally chosen to comply with a federal rule that requires cases to be heard within a certain time after charges are brought.

Exxon and Exxon Shipping Co. are charged with two felony crimes and three lesser offences. (AP)

Columnist makes racial slur: A Pulitzer prize-winning US columnist called a Korean-American journalist on his newspaper "a yellow cur" and was subsequently criticised by his editor, a published report said Saturday.

Jimmy Breslin, a columnist for the prominent New York daily Newsday, lashed out at metro reporter Ji-Yeon Yuh, calling her "slant-eyed" and a "yellow cur" Friday after she criticised a column in which he bemoaned his wife's decision to go to work as a city councilwoman.

The racial insult was reported by New York Daily News and it cited a letter to Newsday editor Anthony Marro written by reporter Jesse Mangaliman, and signed by 46 other staffers, as its source on the incident. (UPI)

Discovery delayed: Bad weather delayed the space shuttle Discovery at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Saturday, partway through its return trip to Florida from California atop a jumbo jet.

The shuttle, riding piggyback on a specially equipped Boeing 747, arrived in the afternoon from Edwards Air Force Base in the California desert.

The next leg of the flight back to Kennedy Space Centre was delayed at least until Sunday because of bad weather further east, said Sgt. Reed Henderson, spokesman for Sheppard Air Force Base.

Discovery landed at Edwards on April 29 after a mission to deploy the Hubble space telescope. (AP)

Ex-ABC president dead: Elton H. Rule, the former ABC television network chief who was credited with the network's rise to broadcasting dominance in the 1970s, died of cancer Saturday at his home. He was 73.

Rule, named president of ABC in 1968 and chief operating officer in 1972, introduced such innovations as the made-for-television movie and ABC Monday night football.

He also signed producer Aaron Spelling to an exclusive contract to produce programme for ABC. Spelling produced such hit series as "The Mod Squad," "Starsky and Hutch," "The Love Boat" and "Charlie's Angels."

"Elton was universally admired by all who knew him," said Thomas S. Murphy, chairman and chief executive officer of Capital Cities-ABC Inc. "He led ABC from a third-place network to equality with CBS and NBC. We are all saddened by his passing." (AP)



Raquel Welch fights

Actress Raquel Welch had a \$5.3 million lawsuit against the Metro Goldwyn Mayer film studio upheld by the California Supreme Court on Friday. The lawsuit was for breach of contract, slander and conspiracy over her firing from the film "Connelly Row" in 1980. Photo is from her testimony in the case. (Reuters wirephoto)

Penny penalty

Contempt, fine

PARKERSBURG, West Virginia, May 6, (AP): A penny saved may be a penny earned, but Gary Wagner only earned time in jail when he tried to use pennies to pay a \$441 fine. He spent three hours in the Wood county jail for contempt.

County magistrate Charles "Ed" Plum levied the fine early this year after Wagner pleaded guilty to battery after shoving a neighbour. Monday was his deadline for paying the fine, and he showed up lugging 12 canvas bags filled with pennies.

The magistrate on duty, Margaret Monroe, told Wagner he had to collect the pennies into rolls of 50.

After they argued a while, Monroe called Plum into the courtroom, and he told Wagner the same thing. When Wagner again refused, Plum cited him for contempt and fined him \$150.

Import of Peruvian arts banned: The United States prohibited the import of archaeological treasures from the Sipan region of Peru effective Monday, federal officials said.

The action means artifacts from Sipan entering the United States without an export permit from Peru will be seized by US Customs agents and returned, the White House and United States Information Agency said in a joint announcement.

Why not a joint prom at Alabama?

EUFALA, Alabama, May 6, (AP): Change comes slowly to this old south town of stately mansions and confederate flags on pickup trucks, where dogwood blossoms and racially segregated high school formal dances are sure signs of spring.

There are no signs of racial division among the 750 students at modern, red-brick Eufla High School. Sixty per cent are white, but the president of the student body and president of the 180-member senior class are black, as are the basketball and football homecoming queens.

But when it comes time to don formal gowns and rented tuxedos for the annual junior-senior affair, known as the prom, white students go to one dance, blacks to another. Both are sponsored by private groups, not the school itself.

"I think we're the only school in Alabama that does this. We're the only one in America, I hope," said senior class president James Samuel.

"They seem to think that if we go to dances together, there will be racial flareups," said Carmen Campbell, 18, a white senior and friend of Samuel.

Community leaders say the southeast Alabama city of about 14,000 still has segregated spring dances even though the public school system was integrated 20 years ago after years of maintaining separate schools for blacks and whites.

Superintendent Dan Parker said the school district got out of the dance business completely four years earlier, but he denied race was the reason.

"Alcohol usually gets to be a problem," said Parker. "They leave get drunk, and then come back. Why should the board or teachers have to assume liability for that?"

Opponents of segregated proms claim the white-controlled school board uses worries over liquor and liability to dodge the issue of mixed-race dances.

The school system also refuses to sponsor autumn homecoming dances and sock-hops.

"If the whites don't want to have a prom with the blacks, you can't make them, and vice versa," said W.D. Moor, a school board member since the 1950s. "I don't think it's been a big issue, but it might be."

School board president Billy Houston called holding two proms "a case of individual preference by the students."

Eufla's annual white prom is sponsored by a group called Youth Enterprises, whose president, Marie Houston, is Houston's daughter.

The whites' dance is May 19 at Lakepoint state park resort on the banks of Lake Eufla. The black prom, put on by Young Blacks in Action, is May 26 at Lakepoint.

A group of black parents last week before the school board about three years ago asking it to sponsor a joint prom, but neither the board nor the administration took up the idea.

"We have gone to the board of education, the superintendent of education and the principal, and they just give us the run-around," said Rose Jordan of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

Nearly all the seniors at a class meeting last fall cheered when Samuel suggested holding a single prom. Miss Campbell said.

Don't get in the way of West Africa's market women

LOME, May 6, (Reuters). If invited to queue-jump at a West African airport, do it.

These women burrow through crowds to dump their mountainous baggage on check-in scales or seize it from carousels.

On a recent flight from Nigeria's Lagos airport the boarding ramp shook as women clutched bulging plastic bags and bales of batik cloth raced to the plane where seating was on a first come first served basis.

To get that far some had bribed officials to ignore the weight allowance, or bought off the customs and police who prey on their lucrative

trade.

One Mama dropped 80 kg (176 lb) of goods on to the scales, slipped one note to the check-in man, another to the customs officer behind him and a third to a baggage handler. Her 20 kg (44 lb) limit thus expanded she padded through immigration with four pieces of carry-on baggage, three in the hand and one of the head, not to mention the baby strapped to her back.

Such scenes barely rate a second glance along the West African coast from Senegal to Zaire where poor roads and innumerable and costly customs and police check points force the market ladies into the air.

They are organised into groups bringing manufactured goods from an economic giant like Nigeria which has a falling currency, the naira, to smaller French speaking countries where the currency is the convertible, French-backed CFA franc, and where import duties are high.

A Japanese radio-cassette player bought for 50,000 CFA francs (\$180) in Lagos will sell for nearly three times that amount in one of the former French colonies. They also trade the vibrantly coloured European and African-made batik cloth which West African women wear.

The whole chain from wholesaler, to transporter to retailer in the village market is run

by women.

"The men can't do this," said Theresa, a 30-year-old mother of three on a recent run from Cameroon to Ivory Coast. "All they know is how to spend money."

The male of the species certainly looks insignificant beside one of these redoubtable women, who may have to raise the children, cook for an extended family, cultivate a plot of land and sell the produce and any other goods she can come by at market.

The great trading fortunes are built on batik, the wax-dyed cotton fabric originally brought to West Africa by the Dutch from Java.

Although many market women are loosely termed Nana Benz, only about 12 who control the batik trade really qualify for the title.

They work West Africa's trading hub, the tiny state of Togo, importing highly prized "Dutch wax" cloth from the Netherlands and selling it to retailers.

Queen of the Nana Benz is Patience Sanvee, 64, a multi-millionaire who started out selling cigarettes on a tray aged eight.

Once a month women from all over the region converge on her modest house in the Togolese capital Lome to stock up on batik which they will take back to their own countries to sell.

P.W. Botha quits National Party

Apartheid reform

JOHANNESBURG, May 6, (Reuters). Former President P.W. Botha said today he had quit South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) as a protest against the apartheid reform programme of his successor F.W. de Klerk.

The autocratic Botha, who was known by the political nickname of "The Great Crocodile," said in an interview with the *Rapport* newspaper that he could not stay in the party he led for more than a decade because De Klerk was selling out the whites.

"The road the National Party is now taking is the road of gradual abdication," he told the Afrikaans-language newspaper.

The 74-year-old ex-president said he had allowed his membership of 50 years to lapse, but did not say if he would transfer to the pro-apartheid Conservative Party (CP).

Full talks to begin soon

On SA power sharing

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, May 6, (AP). A black leader says full negotiations on ending South Africa's white rule will begin soon, noting that the political climate has improved greatly in discussions with the government.

Thabo Mbeki, a leader of the African National Congress, said the three days of discussions give hope that "we are not very far" from negotiations on a new constitution to include South Africa's 28-million black majority.

Such talks "would involve all the parties," declared Mbeki in a speech to a predominantly white audience of 1,000 at Stellenbosch University near Cape Town.

The ANC and the government concluded three days of discussions Friday and agreed for the first time to work together toward removing obstacles to constitutional negotiations.

"The ANC is very committed to creating a political system in this country which is colour blind," said Mbeki, head of the ANC's Foreign Affairs Department. "We have a history defined too much by colour, too much by race."

Mbeki, who has spent 27 years in exile, received a standing ovation and sustained applause for his remarks yesterday.

Stellenbosch is considered the country's most prestigious university for Afrikaners, the Dutch-descended settlers of South Africa who comprise 3 million of the country's 5 million whites. Many of the country's leaders attended the university.

Talks between the ANC and the government have won wide support, but a militant black group predicted there could be pitfalls ahead.

"I don't see how the ANC and the government can share power," said Zeph Mothopeng, president of the Pan Africanist Congress.

"Negotiations can only take place after an election" that includes the black majority, Mothopeng told a Johannesburg news conference.



Thabo Mbeki

The Pan Africanists say the only matters they will negotiate are the direct transfer of power from whites to blacks and the transfer of white-owned land to blacks. The Pan Africanists split with the ANC in 1959 over tactical issues and the two anti-apartheid groups remain rivals to this day.

ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela and De Klerk, appearing at a joint news conference Friday, said the preliminary discussions were an important step toward normalizing political activity and sharing power.

Both sides said they would establish a "working group" to resolve obstacles to full constitutional negotiations. De Klerk said no agreement had been reached on further talks, but the working group would report by May 21 and both sides hoped for swift progress.

The joint statement stressed the need to end political violence and claimed hundreds of lives in recent months. Also, the government pledged "to work toward lifting the state of emergency" — a key ANC demand.

He said the final straw for him was the inclusion of Communist Party leader Joe Slovo in the African National Congress (ANC) delegation which held talks last week with the government of eventual black-white power sharing.

The talks ended last Friday with broad agreement on dismantling the final obstacles to detailed negotiations on a post-apartheid constitution.

Slovo, who returned home last week after decades in exile, was the commander of the ANC's military wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (spear of the nation), which waged a 30-year guerrilla war against white minority rule.

Botha, an arch anti-communist, portrayed Slovo as public enemy number one during his tenure first as prime minister and then as head of state.

Political analysts said Botha's resignation would have minimal effect within the party because he is largely discredited and appears to enjoy little support.

Botha's career in mainstream politics ended when he resigned the NP leadership and then the presidency after suffering a mild stroke in January last year.

He offended former supporters because of the bad grace with which he handed over to De Klerk. He is now virtually a recluse at his home in the Cape Province resort of Wilderness.

De Klerk said in a statement that Botha had based his resignation of a false interpretation of his reformist policies towards the black nationalist movement.

He said it was unfortunate that he was once again forced to repudiate his predecessor.

"It is a painful task because of the valuable contribution Botha has made to the NP and to South Africa," he said.

Ironically, it was Botha who launched a policy of dealing with the NP's arch-foes in the ANC which led to De Klerk's talks this week with a delegation headed by the guerrilla movement's Deputy President Nelson Mandela.

But the speed of reform and rapprochement with the ANC has confounded supporters and critics alike.



Open air funeral

African National Congress (ANC) marshals carry the coffin on Saturday of one of five black youths shot dead by South African police during an anti-apartheid demonstration in Rammlotst township in Orange Free State on April 19. The open air funeral was attended by 10,000 mourners (Reuters wirephoto).

Pueblo crew finally awarded

SAN DIEGO, California, May 6, (Reuters). The crew of the US spy ship *Pueblo* were finally awarded their prisoner of war medals yesterday, ending a 22-year saga of bitterness and controversy over the capture and holding of the vessel by the North Koreans in 1968.

The *Pueblo's* captain, Lloyd (Pete) Bucher, who bore the brunt of his captors' torture and who the US navy later tried to court-martial for letting his ship fall into enemy hands, was among those who received medals at the ceremony.

Also present was Massachusetts Democrat Representative Nicholas Mantonides, who launched an investigation into why the 82-man crew had not been awarded medals and co-wrote a congressional bill which in effect forced the navy to honour the sailors.

Bucher did not speak at the ceremony, but a crewman on the ill-fated voyage, Skip Shumacher, spoke on behalf of the crew and said they were glad the affair was finally over.

The *Pueblo* was captured in January 1968 as it lay off North Korea in what the Koreans claimed were Korean waters but which the United States maintained were international waters.

The ship was attacked by five torpedo boats and a squadron of Soviet-made MiG fighter planes and one seaman was killed.

Bucher and his crew were taken to Pyongyang where they were, according to accounts, brutally tortured until they "confessed" to intruding in Korean waters, spying and trying to provoke a war.

But Bucher, who at one point tried to commit suicide rather than give in, devised ways to let the Pentagon know he and his men had not really told their captors anything.

In much-publicised confessions televised in the United States, Bucher and his crew bamboozled the North Koreans with propaganda "confessions," saying things like "I was to be trained by none other than commander Buzz Sawyer."

They also referred to a friend at the beginning of their confessions: "Garba Gefollows" — garbage follows.

Australians protest against US ship's visit

SYDNEY, May 6, (UPI). Police used high powered hoses to disperse protesters who tried to disrupt the visit of the US naval command flagship, USS *Blue Ridge*, yesterday, navy officers said.

More than 50 small ships, mostly kayaks, carrying 70 members of the nuclear disarmament party, met the warship as it docked at Sydney harbour's Garden Island naval dockyard.

Police tried to keep the protesters clear of the vessel, turning water streams on them when they got too close. No one was injured, but a few paddlers capsized and had to be rescued, police said.

The demonstrators, who began a four-day harbour-side protest vigil yesterday, called on the federal government to

Student freed after 2 years

Always in chains

GIOIOSA IONICA, Italy, May 6, (Agencies). A student kidnapped at his home in northern Italy more than two years ago was set free yesterday in the bleak mountains of Calabria in the south.

Carlo Celadon, 20-year-old son of a wealthy industrialist, was found by a police patrol in the hills above the village of Platì. He could hardly walk and a doctor who examined him said he was very thin and weak.

Celadon was one of four hostages from rich northern Italy believed to be held by Calabrian mafia kidnappers in the poor, inhospitable Aspromonte mountains.

He was 18 when he was seized on January 25, 1988, by four masked and armed men who broke into his family's villa near the northern city of Vicenza.

The men tied up the villa's caretaker and his wife and stole some of the family's valuables. The student's father, Candido Celadon, was in Kenya on holiday at the time.

Celadon was taken to a hotel for the night, where he sipped a cup of tea and spoke to reporters before going to sleep on his first night of freedom.

"I was always kept in chains," he said. "When the gang thought they heard someone approaching or a helicopter flying overhead, I would be blindfolded."

"They spoke in dialect and treated me with a terrible cold-

ness."

Informed today of the release, Italian President Francesco Cossiga invited Celadon to Rome's Quirinale Palace as soon as he regains his strength.

Celadon said that most of his meals consisted of sandwiches filled with Salami. "The food was terrible. I didn't go hungry, but I was often too depressed to eat."

The youth called his imprisonment "a psychological torture."

"I stayed as strong as I could by thinking about my girlfriend Gabriella. I never had doubts about her faith, no matter what the kidnappers said to me. They also told me at least ten times that my father had made appointments to pay the ransom. But they said that the arrangement had failed because he had brought along the police."

Celadon said that he was threatened with mutilation. The abductors said they would cut off one of his ears to show the seriousness of their intentions.

"They also beat me twice, once when I was crying and another time when they caught me praying," he said. "I prayed a lot. And I'll pray more to thank God for my release."

Celadon said that he slept little. "I had nightmares, dreaming that I had died or that Gabriella had died. And when I woke up, it was time to begin another day of terror."

Showbiz wedding of the year

Hogan, Kozlowski wed

BYRON BAY, Australia, May 6, (UPI). Australian screen idol Paul Hogan, 51, wed his Crocodile Dundee film sweetheart, American actress Linda Kozlowski, 32, yesterday in what was billed as Australia's showbiz wedding of the year.

"He's happy and she's a beauty," said Hogan's business partner and best man, John Cornell. "You know we made her an honorary bloke when we were filming *Crocodile* one. There she was in the middle of Australia with a tough Australian crew and she didn't complain once."

It was Hogan's third trip to the altar — he married first wife Noeline twice — and Kozlowski's first.

Hordes of reporters converged on a hill, dubbed Hogan's lookout, in an effort to catch a glimpse of the proceedings at the couple's new, \$2 million mansion, dubbed Possum Creek, a half mile (half km) away.

They were kept busy by locals loyal to Hogan, who baited the press with tales of star sightings throughout town.

Clint Eastwood reportedly had his hair cut at a local barber shop while Sylvester Stallone shopped for crafts in nearby Byron Bay and Arnold Schwarzenegger took an early morning dip in the surf.

None of the tips proved true and Cornell said later that of the 70 guests, only six were from America, including the bride's parents Stan and Helen Kozlowski.

The rest were Australian friends and business associates.

Protest leader Robert Wood, a former senator, said the *Blue Ridge* was the command vessel for the US Seventh Fleet in the Pacific and carried nuclear weapons.

The *Blue Ridge* arrived to commemorate the battle of the Coral Sea, in May 1942, and the associated Australian-America friendship week.

The ship and its 970 member crew was scheduled to stay in Sydney until Wednesday, when it will sail to Brisbane before returning to Japan.

Meanwhile, appeals went out for 500 Australian women to be escorts for crew members at the annual Coral Sea ball.

Black education crisis deepens

In South Africa

SOWETO, May 6, (Reuters). When South Africa's white rulers passed legislation in the 1950s giving the black majority a second-class education, they did not realise the time bomb they were priming for their successors.

"When I have control of native (black) education, I will reform it so that natives will be taught from childhood to realise that equality with Europeans (whites) is not for them," said Hendrik Verwoerd, one of the architects of apartheid, in 1955.

"People who believe in equality are not desirable teachers for natives," Verwoerd, who later became prime minister, said in a landmark speech.

Thirty-five years on, black education is in a state of crisis, due largely to the government's former policy of underfunding as a means of keeping blacks in menial jobs.

Verwoerd's system of "Bantu education" made sure that blacks received inferior education because less money was spent on black education.

As a result, since 1955, few schools were built, less teachers were trained and less money was spent on school teaching aids while the black student population grew.

Resistance against the apartheid education system designed by Verwoerd has now gone so far that President F.W. de Klerk admits his government has no control over what happens in hundreds of schools.

Since January, classes have been disrupted by student boycotts and more recently by a teachers' strike in most of the country's black townships.

Almost 80 school days were lost, about 25 per cent of the school year.

The teachers' strike involved 63 high schools and 290 primary schools in Johannesburg's black satellite city of Soweto alone, and 820 schools throughout the country, according to Stoffel Van Der Merwe, the minister responsible for black education.

Although teachers and pupils returned to classes on April 18, normal work has resumed only in some schools.

At stake are long overdue demands that Pretoria should address the issues of inferior black education, overcrowded classrooms and underqualified teachers.

Researchers say black pupil registrations grew by nearly five per cent every year between 1983 and 1988, while white pupil numbers declined by one per cent a year in the same period.

This means that some white schools stand empty while black establishments are splitting at the seams.

The independent South African Institute of race relations says its latest figures show a total of 6.6 million black pupils were at school in 1987, out of a total school population of 8.6 million. The number of black pupils is expected to increase greatly over the next decade, meaning many more schools and teachers will be needed.

Researchers say that two years ago, more than 1.5 million black children could not find a place at school and those who did gain attendance sat in overcrowded classrooms with an average teacher-pupil ratio of as high as 1:90.

In 1976, Verwoerd's successors tried to introduce the Afrikaans language as a medium of instruction, but massive uprisings in which more than 600 blacks were killed forced the government to abandon the idea.

In some townships the government has devised a double-shift system because of the classroom shortage.

Discipline is all but impossible because of years of violent anti-government classroom protest. Text-books are often shared and libraries and science laboratories are poorly equipped or non-existent.

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Bun Festival

A young girl, dressed as a sea goddess, leads the grand procession during the Bun Festival on Hong Kong's Cheung Chau Island on Sunday. The four-day festival is held every spring to placate restless and hungry ghosts that are believed to haunt the island. (Reuter wirephoto).

Dalai Lama rapped

BEIJING, May 6, (Reuter): China today criticised Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, for making a "great fuss" about human rights in the remote Himalayan region and ignoring former times when subjects were taxed for having ears.

Foreign diplomats said the outburst was part of an ongoing propaganda campaign against the Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace prize last year for his struggle for Tibetan independence from China.

They said the campaign had intensified since last week when martial law was lifted in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, a move seen by diplomats as a conciliatory gesture by China to Western nations imposing sanctions against Beijing.

"The Dalai Lama made a great fuss about freedom and human rights in China's Tibet autonomous region recently during his tour of several countries," the New China News Agency said in an editorial.

"However," it said, "he has not uttered a single word about serfdom which denied the Tibetan people human rights when he ruled Tibet."

"The taxes in Tibet were exceptionally numerous. A serf even had to pay for having ears."

Farmers poisoning scare

BANGKOK, May 6, (Reuter): Up to 100,000 farmers in Thailand could be suffering from pesticide poisoning caused by walking barefoot through rice paddies full of toxic residues, a study reported today.

The figure is an estimate based on the latest findings of a government survey carried in the Nation newspaper.

Of 238 farmers interviewed, 51.3 per cent showed signs of toxic contamination. Thirty-one per cent demonstrated severe reactions including breathing difficulties, blurred vision, muscular convulsions and fainting, the Nation said.

Another 15 per cent showed moderate symptoms such as vomiting, sweating and exhaustion, while five per cent complained of headaches and dizziness.

Survey team leader Jarupong Boonlong told the newspaper that excessive pesticide use by farmers hoping to improve crop yields and the traditional technique of planting rice in muddy water were likely causes of the alarming contamination rate.

Support for Mongolian strikers grows

ULAN BATOR, May 6, (Reuter): About a thousand Mongolians demonstrated today in support of pro-democracy protesters staging a sit-in in central Ulan Bator as hunger strikers in other parts of the country fasted through an eighth day.

In China, Mongolian President Punsalmaagyn Ochirbat continued a landmark tour and headed to inner Mongolia, a region where some three million ethnic Mongolians live under Chinese rule.

As Ochirbat met Chinese leaders, Ulan Bator's official media described the situation at home as "chaos" caused by illegal democracy demonstrations, strikes and hunger strikes against communist authorities.

Some 38 activists from newly-formed democracy organisations remained on hunger strike in three provincial towns. Some have not eaten for eight days, nine have been taken to hospital and a few have suffered "heart problems," opposition sources said.

In Ulan Bator, around a thousand people swarmed into the central Sukhbaatar Square to support about one hundred activists on the third day of a sitdown protest.

They listened to democracy leaders relating details of negotiations with the government. The opposition is demanding that an interim Parliament be set up before the nation's first contested national elections in late July.

They also oppose an election law they say favours the ruling Communist Party and new regulations restricting demonstrations.

In contrast to its southern neighbour China, which ordered the army to crush

mass democracy demonstrations in Beijing last June, Mongolia's Communist Party has conceded many opposition demands.

Mongolia's embattled communist government and the opposition movement have set up a consultative council linked to Parliament, the official East German news agency ADN reported yesterday.

The accord was reached at talks between the government and the Mongolian Democratic Association in Ulan Bator, capital of the remote country squeezed between China and the Soviet Union.

Radio ship raises tension

Goddess of Democracy sails towards China

HONG KONG, May 6, (AP): The radio ship Goddess of Democracy is raising political tensions as it sails toward the Chinese coast to broadcast pro-democracy messages, facing possible retaliation from Beijing.

The 1,200-ton ship set sail from France on March 17 and began the last leg of its voyage Thursday after taking on provisions in Singapore.

Goddess of Democracy is expected to reach international waters off China in about two weeks and begin broadcasting.

"We think it is certainly not out of the question for them to do something to stop continuing broadcasts off their shores," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He added that it was unclear what action Beijing could take in international waters.

The chief organiser of the expedition is the Boat for China Foundation, a Paris-based group, which said it could not predict China's response.

Xu Tianfang, the deputy secretary, said in Taipei, "we have sent journalists on board the ship and they will be the witnesses if any such action occurs."

Any show of force could lead to confrontation between Beijing and a number of governments since the ship is registered in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and carries a French crew and Western journalists.

So far, Beijing has concentrated on applying pressure on nearby governments to refuse assisting the ship. This has increased tension in the region.

Taiwan's stock market fell three straight days after China accused the island of "open provocation" by offering help to the vessel.

With Taiwan increasingly nervous, Goddess of Democracy organisers said they would seek permission to dock in this British colony on China's southeastern coast to load supplies before broadcasting from international waters.

But Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 and is extremely sensitive about relations with Beijing, announced Thursday that the ship will not be allowed to enter the colony's waters.

On Friday, Chu Yung-Chuan of Taiwan's Communications Ministry, said the ship would be allowed to dock at the northern port of Keelung unless his ministry received orders otherwise. So far, the government has indicated the vessel could take on provisions.

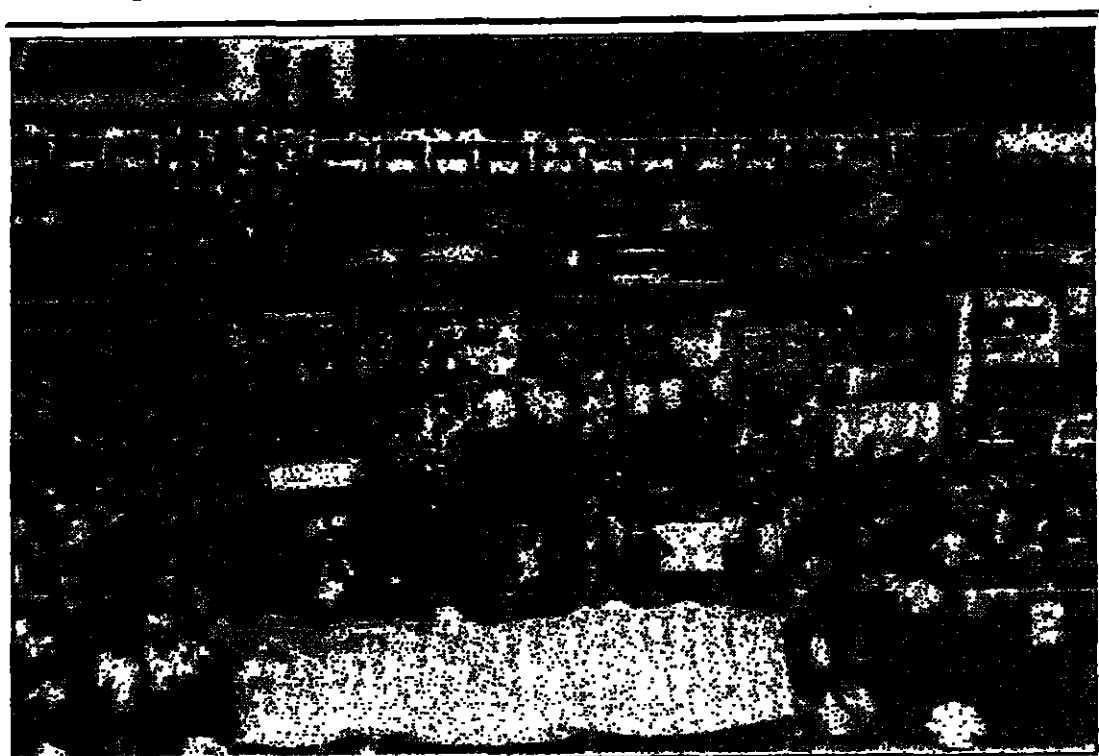
One independent lawmaker announced plans to organise a flotilla of fishing boats to escort the ship on its approach toward China.

And Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Wei Chia-Ching has said the Taiwan military would protect the vessel if it came under attack within the island's "defence zone," an area which he refused to define.



'Night of 100 Stars'

Brooke Shields and Michael Caine appear at the finale of the 'Night of 100 Stars' benefit for the Actors Fund of America in New York on Saturday. The money raised will go to the Actors Fund AIDS programmes. (Reuter wirephoto)



Several thousand Taiwan students marched on through the streets of Taipei yesterday to protest at the nomination of army General Hau Pei-Tsun, now defence minister, to be the next premier. The protest turned violent at the end when police and students clashed. Banner reads "National Student Movement." (Reuter wirephoto)

Students, riot police clash in Taiwan

TAIPEI, May 6, (Reuter): Students marching to protest the choice of Taiwan's most powerful general as the country's next prime minister clashed with riot police today in the first violence of the fledgling pro-democracy student movement.

Witnesses said the trouble started when lines of police confronted a peaceful march of several thousand students and supporters at Taipei's railway station.

Fighting broke out when the marchers angrily refused to disband, and one student was severely beaten, witnesses said.

The protesters fell back in disarray, and clashed again with ranks of fully-equipped riot police near the presidential palace in central Taipei, they said. There was no immediate word on any arrests or other casualties.

Taiwan's state-controlled television stations and radio network made no mention of the violence or the march in their evening newscasts.

The protest march was intended as the finale of a four-day student demonstration against President Lee Teng-Hui's decision to appoint current defence minister and longtime military boss Hau Pei-Tsun to the premiership.

Earlier, more than 1,000 students and several thousand supporters paraded through the streets of central Taipei, yelling "if military men are in power, democracy won't come," and "oppose military intervention in government."

Witnesses said groups of marchers returned to the park after their confrontation with the police and were debating whether to continue the protest.

President Lee, who succeeded late president Chiang Ching-kuo in 1988, was given a new term in March by ruling Nationalist Party members of the electoral college. On May 2 he announced Hau would become premier in a cabinet reshuffle to take place after his inauguration on May 20.

Nepal activists refuse to join

Probe into killings

KATHMANDU, May 6, (Agencies): Prominent human rights activists Kapil Shrestha and Prakash Kafle refused today to join a government-appointed commission to investigate killings during the 7-week pro-democracy movement that toppled the partyless Panchayat regime.

In a joint letter Shrestha and Kafle said "the commission appointed by the previous regime is undemocratic and opposed to human rights and (was) formed on the last days of the Panchayat regime when massive killings took place."

The activists' refusal was a setback for the interim government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. Shrestha and Kafle said they were not consulted by the government when their appointments were announced last week.

Meanwhile, the new prime minister said today a commission would be set up this week to frame a new constitution, stripping authority from the once all-powerful king, and complete its work within three months.

Bhattarai told reporters he also wanted King Birendra to give his two-week-old interim government legislative and executive powers to ratify a new constitution and ensure law and order.

Nepal's current constitution gives King Birendra absolute powers. Bhattarai said the new one would make the king, traditionally regarded as a descendant of the Hindu deity Vishnu, a constitutional monarch.

The prime minister said the interim government would need legislative powers to ratify the new constitution. The king's only task would be to sign the document, he added.

Bhattarai said the government needed executive powers to control law and order in the kingdom.

"The miscreants think we cannot punish or reward people... we do not have that power, which is why the police have not co-operated," Bhattarai said.

Earlier today, the government said it would maintain a 9 pm to 4 am curfew imposed last month on parts of the country. Diplomats said the new government needed it to keep anti-monarchists and police from battling in the streets.

Bhattarai also said he would soon set a date for a visit to New Delhi. Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has invited him for talks to settle a year-old trade row that has soured ties between the once close neighbours.

Meanwhile, the Nepal National People's Liberation Front, led by M.S. Thapa, pledged to fight for "equality of races, tribes, language scripts," in the latest ofshot from the fractured Nepalese communist scene.

There are more than a dozen communist factions in the country. Seven have formed a United Left Front and joined Bhattarai's Nepali Congress Party, the largest in Nepal, to form a provisional government.

Rightists to boycott

Immigration talks

PARIS, May 6, (AP): France's main rightist opposition party said yesterday it will boycott government-organised talks on immigration, jeopardising Premier Michel Rocard's quest for a non-partisan consensus on the volatile topic.

Alain Juppe, secretary-general of the Rally for the Republic, told reporters the May 16 conference would serve no purpose except to create the appearance of multiparty co-operation.

The Rally for the Republic will participate only if the socialist govern-

ment renounces its willingness to let recent immigrants vote and allows introduction of rightist legislation on citizenship requirements, Juppe said.

The socialists are unlikely to take either step.

Rocard agreed last month to convene the conference. His move followed a similar roundtable meeting aimed at developing a multiparty offensive against racism. Conservative leaders said at the time that racism could not be dealt with effectively except in the context of immigration.

Protests against Iliescu continue

BUCHAREST, May 6, (AP): Hunger strikers and other protesters demanding the resignation of interim President Ion Iliescu demonstrated for the 15th straight day today unimpressed with Iliescu's offer of talks and an apology for branding them "thugs."

This afternoon about 200 people milled around the 40 tents pitched by the anti-government protesters in Bucharest's downtown university square, where the 57 hunger strikers vow to fast until their demands are met.

Iliescu yesterday reversed his previous refusal to meet the protesters, and offered to meet them Tuesday morning for talks.

He said however that neither the May 20 date set for free elections nor the electoral law itself were negotiable. Both were approved by the provisional Parliament that includes opposition parties.

That appeared to exclude any chance of meeting the demonstrators' demand that Iliescu and other former high-ranking communists be barred from politics.

The decision to meet the demonstrators was reached after discussions late Friday with Vice-President Ion Caramitru and other high-ranking officials.

Ruled out

As late as Thursday, senior government members had ruled out the chance of any such talks.

But Iliescu, in a statement released by state-run media late yesterday, said the change of heart resulted "from the absolute necessity of creating a civilised climate for the elections."

Opponents of Iliescu accuse the interim president, a former communist, and other members of his National Salvation Front of seeking to exploit their dominance of Romanian politics since the December revolution that ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The five main opposition parties and demonstrators who have rallied against the government in Bucharest, Brasov, Timisoara and other cities fear the ex-communists will win the elections and then establish an authoritarian regime.

The Front denies that it seeks to re-establish a form of communist rule.

Regret

In yesterday's statement, Iliescu expressed "regret for the use of the word 'thugs'" to describe the Bucharest demonstrators hours after their protest started April 22.

Iliescu's description was instrumental in galvanising support for the protesters, who took to wearing signs declaring, "I'm a 'thug,'" and greeting new speakers with a chant of, "you, too, are a hooligan."

Last Sunday, 17 people started a hunger strike to press the demands to exclude ex-communists from politics. Their numbers swelled to 57 over the week, when the protest drew evening crowds of up to 10,000.

Tribute to US troops

PLZEN, Czechoslovakia, May 6, (Reuter): Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel paid tribute today to US soldiers who liberated this town at the end of World War Two, and pledged his country would defend its new democracy.

For the 42 years until November's peaceful "velvet revolution," Czechoslovakia's communist rulers gave all the credit for the country's liberation to the Soviet Red Army and tried to erase all trace of the US role.

Havel told more than 100,000 people in the central square of the western Bohemian town, many waving American flags, that the celebrations were the repayment of a debt to those whose place in history had been denied by the toppled communists.

But Havel also paid tribute to the Russian troops who had liberated the greater part of the country in 1945, saying they deserved "our lasting respect."

"Inspired by the memory of all our past heroes I would like to state that we shall protect our new freedom," Havel said.

"If anybody threatens us militarily we shall defend ourselves with arms," he added, apparently referring to the 1968 Soviet-led invasion which crushed the country's "Prague Spring" democratic movement.

Taiwan island garrison guards route of Chinese dissident radio ship

PRATAS ISLAND, Taiwan, May 6, (Reuter): Before the radio ship "goddess of democracy" starts to broadcast pro-democracy messages to China later this month, it will have to pass near Pratas Island, Taiwan's naval outpost in the South China Sea.

"We have to watch and wait and see. The 'goddess of democracy' is very sensitive," military spokesman Major General Wei Chia-Ching said during a rare press tour of the coral archipelago.

Pratas is one of four islands and reef groups scattered in the vast South China Sea.

Two of the groups, the Prata Islands and the Spratly Islands, have long been areas of conflict with the Philip-

pines, Vietnam, Malaysia, China and Taiwan all staking their claims to some of the reefs.

Pratas may have its turn to make news when the radio ship passes by, for it is the closest South China Sea island to Taiwan and is closer still to China.

The horseshoe-shaped island is only 140 miles south of South China's Shantou city (Swatow), 170 miles southeast of Hong Kong and 220 miles southwest of the south Taiwan city of Kaohsiung.

When the "goddess of democracy" radio ship left Singapore on Thursday, its course was still uncertain as its controversial nature has made it an unwelcome guest.

Beijing has said it will not tolerate any country helping

the ship, and spokesmen have not ruled out the use of force to stop its broadcasts.

Hong Kong officials said the French-crewed vessel will not be welcome to resupply there.

Taiwan has publicly said it would allow the ship to come, but privately officials say they hope it does not, because of the danger of angering China.

Beijing has accused Taipei of provocation by giving the ship permission to dock in the northern port of Keelung. Pratas's 8.5 square km (3.3 square miles) bristle with watch posts and gun emplacements.

"We have to guard against Chinese communist ships... our mission is to protect our country's territory" one naval

official said.

But the sailors stationed here spend their tours of duty helping Chinese boats, not fighting them, the island sports a hospital and reception centre for fishermen, mostly from China or Hong Kong, who come to the island for help.

Officials said they spotted about 50 mainland Chinese fishing boats and 20 to 30 from Hong Kong every day in the clear waters of the bright white coral beach, but only a small number actually come in for aid.

The island even has a temple, complete with recorded tapes of monks' chanting, where visiting fishermen can pray before once again braving the elements.

Nato-allied Germany in Moscow's interest

Bonn talks cleared way for quick unity

BONN, May 6. (Agencies): The Soviet Union should accept Nato membership for united Germany because a move would also be in Moscow's interest, a high-ranking West German official said today.

Lutz Stavenhagen, state ministry in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's office, made the comment after a conference in Bonn yesterday on German unification.

"There are two areas where it should... and it will be... made clear to the Soviets that agreement would be in their interest," Stavenhagen said in an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio station.

"We want to remain a member of Nato, the entire Germany,"

Stavenhagen said. "It should be made clear to the Soviet Union that Nato will change."

He said the Western alliance would make disarmament and arms control its priorities, "things that are very much in the Soviet interest," Stavenhagen said.

He also reconfirmed Bonn's promise to guarantee East Germany's continued industrial deliveries to the Soviet Union and indicated West Germany would seek a liberalisation of high-technology exports to Eastern Europe.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, discussing yesterday's conference, said the meeting cleared the way for quick German unification and left it up to the Germans to determine the pace of the process.

In an interview with the ZDF television network, Genscher referred to a statement made by Shevardnadze in which the Soviet official was quoted as saying, "the settlements of interior and foreign aspects of German unity do not necessarily have to come at the same time."

The statement, translated by the West German Foreign Ministry, reflected a significant shift in the Soviet position because it decoupled the problem of Nato membership from other aspects of the unification process, ministry officials said.

"The Soviet Union now wants to delay a final solution of the external aspects in order to defuse its own domestic political doubts (about unity)," the official said.

The official said Moscow, which until recently demanded that Germany's military future be decided before unification could go ahead, was now ready to agree to only broad guidelines for the foreign ties of the united country.

Nato sources in Brussels gave the apparent shift in Soviet thinking a cautious welcome, tempered by concern that the military status of a united Germany could remain undefined for several years.

"We note that the Soviets have changed their position and we hope that they will come to realise that a united Germany being a member of Nato is also in their interest," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

He noted a progression in Soviet thinking on the issue — from an insistence on German neutrality to a suggestion of membership in both Nato and the Warsaw Pact, to an apparent postponement of the issue.

"We hope they will change their minds in the near future," said another Nato source.

World Jewish leaders gathered today in West Berlin where Hitler plotted the extermination of their people to tell a Germany racing for unification that it bears a special responsibility for Jewish survival.

The meeting, the first by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) in Germany since clandestine sessions before World War Two, aims both to sound an alarm on German unity and to lay the foundation for a further reconciliation between Germans and Jews.



'Forgive me'

In Bucharest's University Square yesterday a protester holds a bust of Karl Marx (left). Sign reads: Workers of the world, forgive me. At right is statue of Lenin with sign reading in Russian and Romanian: Without communism. The protest has lasted over two weeks (Reuters wirephoto).



Mobbed by supporters

Rebel Soviet communist official Boris Yeltsin is being mobbed by supporters at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Saturday as he returns to Moscow after touring Western capitals to promote his bid. (Reuters wirephoto)

Croatians vote in crucial elections

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, May 6. (Reuters): Croatia voted today in the second round of a parliamentary election that is almost certain to give nationalists a landslide win over the ruling communists and could widen divisions in Yugoslavia.

The 3.5 million voters started casting ballots in bright sunshine for 225 unfilled places in the 356-seat regional parliament in Croatia, Yugoslavia's second biggest republic and one of its main centres of power.

The Croatian Democratic Union, a right-wing party seeking more independence within or outside Yugoslavia, won 104 of the seats outright in the first round two weeks ago. The communists won only 13 seats and smaller parties got 14 between them.

Sunday's ballot was in districts where no candidate won more than half the votes in the first round and seats will be decided by a simple majority. Reporters said slightly fewer people appeared to be voting after a huge first round turnout.

The nationalists led in most areas and are widely expected to complete a rout of the communists who have ruled Croatia since 1945.

Their victory, just a month after neighbouring Slovenia voted into power a centre-right coalition, would create a northern pocket of anti-communism in the Balkan federation of eight republics and provinces.

Diplomats say this division and Croatian and Slovenian calls for more autonomy could make Yugoslavia even harder to govern or break it up. It is deep in economic crisis, the federal Communist Party is in turmoil and ethnic rivalry is rising.

"The League of Communists of Croatia was in power in the first election round, but in the second round it is practically in opposition," Ivo Druzic, a senior Croatian communist, said.

"The triumph of the Croatian Democratic Union is not in doubt," Jovan Raskovic, leader of the Serbian ethnic minority in Croatia, told the Belgrade newspaper Politika today.

Final results were not expected until midweek. Croatia and Slovenia are the only republics that have held free elections since 1938 but some other regions are expected to follow suit within about a year. A federal election is pencilled in for later this year.

Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian Democratic Union's leader and a retired army general, war hero and former political prisoner, has pledged to seek greater Croatian independence and break from the rest of Yugoslavia if he wins.

He could face a tough political battle with the communist leaders in Serbia, the biggest republic, who favour strong central rule. Croatia's relationship with Serbia is the traditional pivot of power in Yugoslavia.

The 600,000-strong Serbian minority in Croatia's 4.5 million population are worried by what they call the stirring of nationalist sentiments among some members of Tudjman's party.

But Raskovic told politika co-operation was possible between Croats and Serbs and dismissed fears of a repeat of a massacre of Serbs, Jews and gypsies carried out in the Croatian puppet state set up during World War Two.

Democratic grouping and drop the communist name in an attempt to keep pace with the wind of change sweeping Europe.

But he is strongly opposed by party hardliners and traditionalists, and could lose control of the party if it does worse than expected in the elections.

The PCI, second biggest party after the Christian Democrats, scored 27.6 per cent in European elections last June and Occhetto himself says he would consider it a success to contain the loss to four points or less in these polls.

Any loss greater than that is likely to bring the party under strong pressure to halt the process of transformation, which is still under discussion.

A major shift in the fortunes of the communists could also upset the equilibrium within the coalition government.

A greatly weakened Communist Party would strengthen Socialist leader Bettino Craxi's claims to leadership of the Italian left and tempt him to break away from his governing alliance with the majority Christian Democrats.

Some commentators say the ambitious Craxi, always critical of the Christian Democrats, might be tempted to provoke premature general elections to consolidate his advantage and boost the power of the Socialists, who won 14.8 per cent in last year's European vote.

Gorby rejects Latvia move

Blockade threat

RIGA, USSR, May 6. (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday rejected Latvia's declaration of independence and threatened the Baltic republic with political, economic and administrative measures if it doesn't reverse its course, Tass reported.

Gorbachev's decision came a day after Latvia's Parliament had adopted the independence measure and was announced late last night on Latvian television by Alfreds Rubiks, the republic's Communist Party chief.

Rubik's comments were reported early today by Tass, the official Soviet news agency.

Rubik spoke by telephone with Gorbachev earlier yesterday and said the Soviet leader considered the attempt by the Latvians to portray their decision as different from that by neighbouring Lithuania was "groundless," Tass reported.

The Latvian lawmakers, in adopting the declaration Friday, insisted that their path to independence was a gradual one, setting up a transition period that would include negotiations with Moscow.

"The president of USSR considers that the declaration that was passed May 4 by the Latvian Parliament on the restoration of

independence of the Latvian republic signifies a violation of constitutional norms and is leading towards the breakdown of governmental ties of the republics of the USSR," Rubiks quoted Gorbachev as saying.

Gorbachev emphasised negotiations are possible only under the conditions of Latvia's respect for the Soviet constitution. Tass quoted Rubiks as saying:

"No negotiations can begin without the restoration of the governmental status of Latvia before Friday, according to the report."

Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders have used similar language in the case of Lithuania, insisting the republic return to its status as of March 10, one day before its Parliament declared independence.

Tass quoted Rubiks as saying that if the republic ignores the Soviet constitution, the president reserves the right to take political, economic and administrative measures in response.

He did not elaborate on what measures Gorbachev might take. In mid-April, the Soviet leader imposed an economic embargo on Lithuania for its pro-independence moves, cutting off all oil and sharply curtailing natural gas and other key supplies.

Gorbachev's decision was not broadcast on Soviet national television last night, and he did not make any reference to it in a public appearance in Moscow earlier in the day.

The independence declaration by Latvia's Supreme Soviet Parliament on Friday was greeted by jubilant crowds dancing in the streets of Riga and the setting off of fireworks.

The vote was 138-0, with one abstention and one lawmaker absent. But 57 deputies did not vote in protest, and Rubiks and another anti-independence deputy walked out of the hall to show their displeasure.

May Day protesters who jeered the Kremlin leadership and denounced Moscow's economic blockade of Lithuania should be rejected as extremists, Gorbachev said.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs

Nato reshapes talk

BRUSSELS, May 6. (Reuters): Nato defence ministers will this week discuss how to reshape the nuclear umbrella over Western Europe as four decades of cold war fade into history.

"We want to see how we need to change our security structure and plan for those changes," said a senior official who briefed reporters ahead of the regular nuclear planning session on May 9 and 10 in Canada.

The 16-nation alliance agreed last week to scrap plans to modernise US short-range nuclear missiles and artillery in Western Europe in view of the democratic changes that have swept the East bloc.

But Nato says it needs to keep some nuclear weapons, principally because the Soviet Union has them and to guard against instability or unrest on the rapidly changing continent.

The ministers, cloistered at the mountain retreat of Kananaskis near Calgary, will discuss the future of their stockpile of nuclear warheads already at its lowest level in almost 20 years.

This will include the question of which weapons can be withdrawn or eliminated through talks with Moscow, expected to start early next year, on short-range nuclear forces (SNF). SNF weapons are those with a range below 500 km (312 miles).

Latvians brace up for long struggle

MOSCOW, May 6. (Reuters): The republic of Latvia, whose independence declaration has been denounced by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, is preparing for what could be a long struggle between the break-away Baltic region and the Kremlin.

Riga residents, well aware of the crippling effects of an economic blockade imposed on neighbouring Lithuania, were reported today to be buying up food stocks in shops.

"I'm sure there will be some sort of blockade," said Latvian television journalist Janis Gavars, a member of the Parliament which passed the declaration on Friday.

"But that's life. We are ready for everything. We voted for the declaration and knew what we were doing," he said by telephone from the Latvian capital.

The denunciation, despite attempts by the republic's leaders to placate the Kremlin, seems to put Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on a collision course with Moscow.

Gorbachev was quoted yesterday by Alfreds Rubiks, head of Latvia's pro-Moscow Communist Party, as saying the republic's declaration of independence was a "breach of constitutional norms" and that there could be no talks unless full Soviet sovereignty was restored.

Gorbachev's remarks seemed likely to reinforce growing links between the Baltic republics, all forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union by Josef Stalin in 1940.

The Latvian Popular Front said Gorbachev's attack would be debated by deputies tomorrow. The front and its allies command a majority in Parliament.

"People are worried that what is happening to Lithuania could happen to them, although the situation is somewhat different here," said Antonio Gustaitis, a journalist with Almoda, the Latvian Popular Front's newspaper.

"If sanctions are applied, our sacrifices will be much greater because we have a more developed infrastructure with many more factories and enterprises... our enterprises could not wait until the problem was solved."

Almost half the republic's 2.7 million population is non-Latvian, following decades of planned mass immigration from other parts of the Soviet Union, against just 20 per cent in Lithuania.

Most of Latvia's industry consists of huge Moscow-run state concerns, all staffed and run by Russians, and would be hard to adapt to Latvian needs.

Russians also dominate the important ports of Ventspils and Riga. The latter is the largest in the Baltic after Leningrad.

The armed forces, keen to maintain their grip on the ports and the large military academy at Riga, would be strongly opposed to the republic gaining full independence.

The large numbers of Soviet troops on Latvian soil is one of the explosives points Riga wants to discuss with Moscow.

"I think big collisions lie ahead of us on our soil," Gustaitis said. "The local population is reacting in its own way by buying up the foodstuffs in the shops."

Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunov told reporters yesterday that Latvia had fewer natural resources than Lithuania and that support for Vilnius would have to be mainly political.

Skull

Stigma of Red rule

SOFIA, May 6. (Reuters): The leader of Bulgaria's opposition electoral campaign keeps a smashed and blackened human skull in a drawer of his desk — a reminder, he says, of the effects of communism on his country.

The skull, which was taken from a mass grave in southern Bulgaria, is thought to have belonged to a priest executed by the communists without trial in 1944 and represents one of the reasons why the opposition Union of Democratic Forces is confident it will win Bulgaria's first free parliamentary elections in four decades next month.

"You can see this man was probably killed with an axe," said Petko Simionov, showing off the skull and a pair of rusted handcuffs he says were found on the skeleton.

"How many millions of posters are the communists going to have to print to erase the effects of this?"

Poland invited to talks

WARSAW, May 6. (AP): Secretary of State James A. Baker III invited Poland today to participate in a six-nation meeting in Paris in July during which the country will seek a guarantee of its western border from a united Germany.

"I thought it was important to try to come by," Baker told Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki after arriving from Bonn, where he headed the first top-level talks on German unification.

Baker said he would give Polish leaders a complete report on the discussions held yesterday by the four victors of World War II — the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union — as they moved toward merger. He was to fly back to Washington after the six-hour stop in Warsaw.

Poland, overrun by the Germans in World War II, is trying to protect itself from a strengthened neighbour that was forced to forfeit 102,000 square kilometres (40,000 square miles) to Poland in post-war compensation for an even larger swathe of eastern Poland annexed by the Soviet Union.

A senior US official said during the flight to Warsaw that Baker also would talk to the Poles about events in Lithuania, where the independence movement is under economic pressure from the Soviet Union.

Baker is also expected to get a report on Soviet thinking as well as Poland's strenuous effort to adjust to a Western-style economy from the democratic reformers and former communists in Poland's government, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At yesterday's unification talks, the six nations also decided that Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski would be invited to a summit session in Paris. Baker said he carried a letter for the foreign minister requesting his presence.

West German President Richard von Weizsaecker has concluded an unprecedented visit designed to calm Polish fears about German unification.

East Germans go to elections

Local polls

EAST BERLIN, May 6. (Reuters): East Germans voted today in local elections that will complete their country's swift move from a Stalinist state to a democracy.

Some 20,000 polling stations opened in sunny weather at 7 am (1500 GMT), giving voters the opportunity to strip communists of their last government posts in East Germany's second free election in seven weeks.

The vote will also test the standing of the Conservative-led government and its deal with Bonn to make the West German mark legal tender in the East in preparation for full unification of the two Germans.

Officials expected a lower turnout than in the March parliamentary election, when 93 per cent of voters cast their ballots to sweep the government coalition of Christian Democratic (CDU) Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere into office.

Candidates around the country have had to combat growing apathy as disillusion over unification mounts.

Euphoria has been replaced by a morning-after feeling among many ordinary people who fear losing their jobs and social cushion under capitalism.

The official news agency ADN

said many of the 12 million eligible voters would probably prefer to spend the warm day on the beach or in a park than at polling stations.

The first reliable computer projections were expected a few hours after 6 pm (1600 GMT), when polling stations were closing, but complete results would not be known until tomorrow.

Some 258,500 candidates were contesting 119,632 seats in 7,787 district and municipal councils.

No opinion polls preceded the vote but one certainty was that the communists, renamed the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) to shed their Stalinist past, would lose votes. While the March election reduced communists to the role of opposition in Parliament, party officials have clung to power in grassroots politics throughout the country.

Today's democratic vote will replace the results of communist-run local elections a year ago.

The communists claimed 98.85 per cent of the May 1, 1989, vote. But the results were negated for Erich Honecker's regime to look strong in the face of growing dissatisfaction with 40 years of dictatorship.

The outcome sparked street protests — which led to the fall of Stalism late last year.

Communists expected to slump in Italy's regional and local elections

ROME, May 6. (Reuters): Italians voted today in regional and local elections expected to reveal how much damage Eastern Europe's democratic revolution has inflicted on the West's biggest Communist Party.

The result of the poll could also change the shape of the national government that will preside over Italy's six-month presidency of the European Economic Community beginning on July 1.

More than 6 million people are eligible to vote in the elections for city, provincial and regional councils which began today and continue until next afternoon.

The election campaign has been marked by squabbling between members of the nine-month-old, five-member

coalition government of Christian Democrat Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and by the murder of six candidates in the Mafia-ridden south.

The Italian Communist Party (PCI), suffering an identity crisis because of its falling fortunes at home and the collapse of communist regimes all over Eastern Europe, is in the midst of a traumatic transformation and is thought certain to lose votes.

But there is intense interest in whether the PCI can contain the damage.

PCI leader Achille Occhetto gained overwhelming support at a special congress in Bologna last March for the party to transform itself into a new mass Social

Democratic grouping and drop the communist name in an attempt to keep pace with the wind of change sweeping Europe.

But he is strongly opposed by party hardliners and traditionalists, and could lose control of the party if it does worse than expected in the elections.

The PCI, second biggest party after the Christian Democrats, scored 27.6 per cent in European elections last June and Occhetto himself says he would consider it a success to contain the loss to four points or less in these polls.

Any loss greater than that is likely to bring the party under strong pressure to halt the process of transformation,

which is still under discussion.

A major shift in the fortunes of the communists could also upset the equilibrium within the coalition government.

A greatly weakened Communist Party would strengthen Socialist leader Bettino Craxi's claims to leadership of the Italian left and tempt him to break away from his governing alliance with the majority Christian Democrats.

Some commentators say the ambitious Craxi, always critical of the Christian Democrats, might be tempted to provoke premature general elections to consolidate his advantage and boost the power of the Socialists, who won 14.8 per cent in last year's European vote.

Kuwait Red Crescent general assembly meets

Material aid to flood victims

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): The general assembly of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society holds its 24th regular annual meeting today at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The society's secretary general Barges Hmoud Al Barges said the meeting would elect five members of the board of directors, indicating a number of candidate would contest for the vacancies including the outgoing board members Abel Aziz Hamad Al Saqr, Yousif Ibrahim Al Ghanim, Rajab Ali Al Rijaib, Abdel Karim Jaafar and Sulaiman Fraji Al Ali.

In today's meeting, the society discussed the annual report on its activities during the previous year, a report by the accounts

controller, covering the society's budget and expenditure estimations for current fiscal.

Last year, the society organised the 11th training session on first aid in collaboration with the medical association, an affiliate of the faculty of medicine. Forty-five participants took part in that course.

Activities

The women's committee also organised a training session on tailoring in which 23 trainees took part.

The society also organised another session for 35 dentists and dispatched volunteers to several activities inside Kuwait and abroad.

Within the frame work of its humanitarian activities during the last year, the society paid visits to youth hostels, elderly homes, took part in fund-raising functions in the country and offered medical care to pilgrims.

Regarding foreign assistance, the society granted cash donations to Bahraini and Palestinian Red Crescent societies and sent material aid to the victims of floods in Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Sudan and Bangladesh.

The society exerted efforts to muster international support for the heroic Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories in health, social, humanitarian and information fields.

Barges Al Barges, secretary-general of the society, conducted intensive contacts with American and European organisations and held several meetings with representatives of the international committee for human rights and the international committee for the Red Crescent and the Red Cross and urged them to assist Palestinian doctors and nurses in securing medical treatment for the sick and the victims of Zionist oppression.

Through its branch in Pakistan's northern city of Peshawar, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society offered health and social services to displaced Afghans and established a 20-bed hospital in addition to a number of clinics in border areas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): The Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received at the Bayan Palace Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed and Ahmad Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem.

Illiteracy meeting

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): The Crown Prince and Prime Minister's wife Sheikhha Latifa Al Fahd Al Sabah yesterday inaugurated the regional conference on eradication of illiteracy in the GCC member states.

The conference is organised by the Social Service Centre and Kuwait University.

Rector of the University Dr Shuaib Abdullah Shuaib addressed the opening ceremony saying that the gathering came in response to a decision taken by Unesco and in accordance with the efforts exerted by Arab and international organisations.

A number of government and non-government establishments are participating in the conference which is held on the occasion of the international year of eradication of illiteracy.

Jaber returns

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): Director-general of Kuwait Civil Aviation Department, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah returned home from Cairo, where he signed a memorandum of understanding with the Egyptian civil aviation authorities.

A department statement noted that Sheikh Jaber and Board Chairman of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority Maj. Gen. Ali Othman Ziko signed the memorandum following meetings between Kuwaiti and Egyptian delegations.

It indicated that the memorandum would enable the two airlines to increase the organised weekly flight between Kuwait and Cairo allowing each airline to carry 3,400 passengers from one end to another weekly during summer season and 2,100 passengers in winter season.

The decision will go into effect from the 1991 summer season to meet the growing number of passengers.

Planning training

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi yesterday inaugurated four training courses at the Arab Planning Institute (API).

The training courses range between seminars on foreign debts, to preparing, executing and administering projects, to transport projects evaluation and evaluation of industrial ventures.

Awadi highlighted, in an opening statement, that the courses primarily target improving productivity, realising Arab development in various spheres and upgrading the decision-making process.

The one to four week courses are attending by 70 trainees from all Arab countries.

Aviation delegation

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): A three-member delegation of the Civil Aviation Department left Kuwait yesterday for France to represent the country in a preparatory meeting of the regional European bureau of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

A CAD release said that the meeting scheduled to open in Paris today would discuss developing the distribution network of air navigation cables and meteorology among world airports.

Salem received

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): Moroccan her apparent Prince Mohammed Bin Al Hassan received today Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah at Al Salam Palace.

The meeting was attended by head of the mission of honour and State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan and senior members of the delegation accompanying the Moroccan royalty.



Kendal received

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Yousuf Bader Al Khorafi received at his office the visiting Interpol Secretary-General D. Kendal. He was accompanied by the Interpol Middle and Far East liaison officer.

Arabian conservation

Oman renews efforts to save rare mountain goat

MUSCAT, May 6, (AP): A renewed effort to save the Arabian Tahr species of primitive mountain goat is to be made in Oman, a senior conservation official said yesterday.

A second captive breeding programme will be launched to reinforce a conservation campaign aimed at preventing the extinction of the Tahr, one of the rarest mammals in the world, said Ralph Daly, conservation advisor to Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos.

"We believe it is vital to broaden the genetic base of the only Tahr population left in the world," Daly said. "An initial breeding programme for scientific study of around 14 Tahr at the captive breeding centre at Bait Al Barakah will be supplemented by a second breeding programme in Northern Oman to ensure we have animals of different lines."

The world's last remaining Arabian Tahr are found only in

the Sultanate's Northern Hajar mountain range and neighbouring mountains in the United Arab Emirates.

It is most clearly related to the Chamois and Musk Ox and its preferred habitat are the slopes of steep, north-facing mountains.

The government established the Wadi Sarin Nature Reserve to protect the species in the wild after Tahr hunting by man was officially banned in 1975.

The reserve, 45 kilometres (28 miles) southwest of Muscat, forms part of the Hajar Range which runs in a crescent from the Strait of Hormuz to the Musandam Peninsula in the north 650 kilometres (406 miles) southeast, to the edge of the Wahiba sands.

The reserve area occupies the steep and rocky terrain of the 2,000-metre (6,500 feet) high Jebel Aswad or Black Mountain, and is closed to the public.

Seventeen mountain tribesmen known as "Mushrafyn" or

guardians, monitor the movement of the Tahr, said Daly.

The size of the population was still being determined but could be between 1,000 and 2,000, he said.

The Arabian Tahr is a territorial species and survives on fruit, seeds, young shoot and grasses.

It is hunted in the wild by leopards, hyenas and wolves living in Oman's northern mountains. Its young kids are prey to eagles, ravens and red foxes.

The majority of the research work carried out on behalf of the government has been led by Muscat-based British Wildlife Biologist Dr Paul Munton, 41, from London.

He described the Arabian Tahr as "not a well-adapted desert dweller but a relic of a more temperate fauna hanging on to life in the coolest and most sheltered parts of the most difficult mountains of Arabia."

Adherence to Haj quotas: Saudis

RIYADH, May 6, (Kuna): An official Saudi source today affirmed his country's difference to the decision endorsed by the 17th Islamic foreign ministers' conference in respect to the quota of pilgrims allowed for each Islamic country during the Haj season.

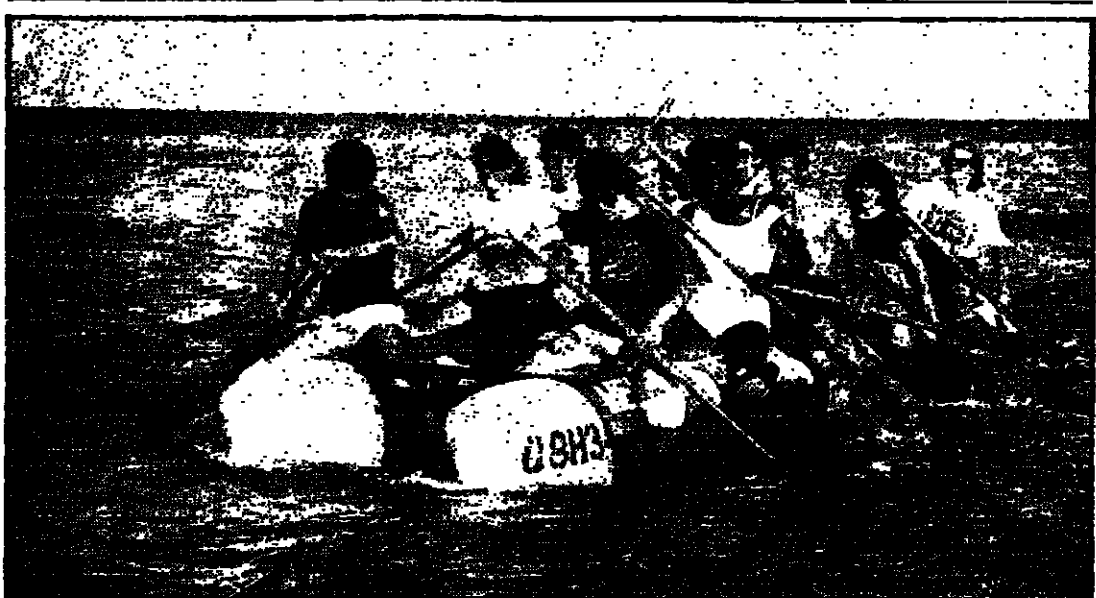
In a statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the source was replying to a report for the Associated Press in which it quoted an Iranian official source as saying: "Iran has emphasised the right of pilgrims to stage demonstrations during the Haj season and that the intensified mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia has failed in settling the

number of Iranian pilgrims."

The Saudi official once again affirmed that his country will continue to adhere to the foreign ministers' conference decision regarding the Haj quotas, until the expansion project of the holy mosques is completed in order to have room for more pilgrims.

The source said that the kingdom has made itself clear to Iranian Haj delegation in the two years that it will only allow pilgrims within the quota specified for Iran.

He added that Iranians have made it a habit by rejecting decisions endorsed by the entire Islamic world.



Mercedes-Benz/Harriers raft team

MERCEDES-BENZ/HASH House Harriers Raft team will participate again. On the May 11, there will be for the fourth time a Raft Racing competition.

The Hash House Harriers, this year again sponsored by A.R. Alibisher & Z. Alkazemi Co., the Mercedes-Benz agent, will enter in four categories, the welded raft, for men, women and mixed team and an entry in the wood and rope class.

Many of the other teams, like the Messilah team, the Swedish team and the BP team are training very hard, because they are all very eager to beat the Mercedes-Benz/HHH who, as everybody knows, dominated in almost all the classes for three consecutive years.

Mercedes-Benz racing cars are called "Silver Arrow" on the international circuits. This, became in the fifties, when one of their racing car was one kilo too heavy at the scrutineering, the crew overnight scratched off the paint the car showed its aluminium, silver-coloured, from where it got its name.

This particular car won the races. The same happened with the Hash House Harriers Rafts. HHH are entering the races next Friday, as Silver Arrows or as the Germans say, "Silberpfeil".

The races start at 10.30 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel and everybody is welcome.

MPW to go ahead with various projects

Seafront to be extended

THE Ministry of Public Works has begun five projects to pave and tile a total of one million square metres of areas that include co-operative societies, schools, wedding halls and some other installations. The projects also include irrigation networks and the total cost is envisaged to be in the vicinity of KD8 million.

Disclosing this information, Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti said that five more similar projects will also be carried out in the near future at a total cost of about KD11 million and on completion the total paved areas will total two million square metres.

Speaking on various constructional sectors in Kuwait, the official said that metal bridges are easily built in Kuwait and have the added advantage of being quickly dislocated and shifted to a new site. Metal bridges built in Kuwait are intended to last for 80 years if they are regularly maintained, the official said.

Tunnels and pedestrian flyovers are built to protect citizens in keeping with recommendations of studies undertaken by the Municipality, Ministry of Public Works, Traffic Department and public transportation company. Houti said that the local media should enlighten the public about the importance of using these tunnels and flyovers instead of crossing roads at unauthorised points.

Underground water

He said that the ministry has instructed contractors to protect bases of installations and basements from leakage of underground water. Technical staff of the ministry have also

been asked to address the problem of leaking in the basements of old buildings such as some government buildings, he said.

The minister attributed the increase in the levels of underground water to the increase of irrigated land and increase in the quantities of irrigated water. He added that the ministry has set up a committee to discuss and study this problem and to recommend practical solutions.

Centres

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Construction Projects Department of the Ministry of Public Works Bader Al Qabandi was quoted as saying that the Commercial and Administrative Centre in Mishref has been accomplished and will be handed over to the ministry during this month.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the third and fourth stages of the waterfront project which stretches from the Amir Diwan to Al Salam Hotel is still under study and it is expected that the relevant tender will be floated next month.

He added that the two stages which shall amount to four kilometres will contain passages for pedestrians, platforms for fishing, yards for children games and cars parking in addition to other recreational areas. He added that the project will cost about KD16 million.

Qabandi also disclosed that his department will study the rehabilitation and the re-organisation of old markets in order to keep abreast with the country's traditions.

Apart from the above, the

Ministry of Public Works in coordination with the Ministries of Planning and Information will build five theatres. He pointed out that the country was in need of modern theatres with the latest state-of-the-art equipment.

On the other hand, the official disclosed that the implementation of Fish and Meat Market will begin this month. The total cost of the project will amount to KD4.5 million and will be carried out within 600 days.

He added that the fish market will group 96 stalls while the vegetable market will consist of 51 shops in addition 132 stalls. 79 shops will be made available for different foodstuffs.

In a related development, director of design at the construction department, Ali Ashkanani said that the ministry is planning to float a tender for the fifth stage of the waterfront project to be extended from the Popular Cafe to Al Marzouk Pearl Building.

He added that the five-year plan 1990/1995 will include the construction of several centres at Jabriya, Salwa, Andalus and Yarmouk in addition to the construction of mosques, municipality centres, post offices, social affairs offices, police stations and car parks.

He added that his department is currently involved in the setting up of the necessary designs for several schools, health centres and mosques.

He also said that the department will undertake the construction of a temporary premises for the Ministry of Interior at Surra, a traffic court in Ahmadi in addition to a social centre in each suburb.

Surgeon calls for fertility clinic

DR Mohammad Sabah, Urethra Surgery Consultant at Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital, called for the setting up of an integrated centre for diagnosing cases of sterility and attributed the importance to the increase in cases among men and women in Kuwait.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that in view of the improvement of health services in Kuwait, the need to treat such cases at an early stage takes on added significance. He added that all required equipment, including allied diagnosis apparatuses, testing equipment and tissue laboratories are presently available.

However, Sabah commented that the hospital is in need of a modern laboratory, designed to test sperm specimens and expressed the hope that the Ministry of Health will agree to set up such a laboratory at the Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital which

would be the nucleus for all the laboratories in the country.

He said that previously people were under the mistaken notion that women were mainly responsible for sterility. Consequently, many a male married for the second and third time before discussing that he was sterile. Presently, males agree to undergo medical tests to ascertain that they are not sterile, he said.

On reasons for sterility, he said that it could be attributed to diseases of the testicles, defects in the ductile gland, the shape and movement of the sperm and several other related factors. Nutrition also plays a vital role, the official said and added that a balanced meal containing protein, vitamins and other nutrients are essential for obviating sterility. Irrespective of diet, treating sterility cases in men has always proved to be quite a difficult task, Sabah said.



Blind society function

The Kuwait Society for the Blind recently held a function at the Childhood Care Centre on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr during which gifts were distributed to orphans.

The director of the Public Relations Department at the society Riyadh Al Ibrahim said that the function came in response to a request by the members of the board of directors, adding that such events will be held in similar institutions.

Gulf Scrabble Championship in Fujairah

THE first-ever Gulf Scrabble tournament is to be held in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, this autumn, it was announced this week by Ivo D'Silva, president of the Fujairah Scrabble Club and in charge of tournament logistics.

Bringing together the region's top players in the world's number one word game, the competition is called the Gulf Scrabble Masters Championship.

Two to four-member teams are expected to participate from Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. "Though Scrabble clubs in Kuwait and Qatar are unknown, we'd certainly welcome applications from groups in those countries," said Roy Kietzman, chairman, Bahrain Scrabble League, and in charge of tournament organisation.

Besides the Gulf Scrabble Cup to the top team, citations and prizes are also being offered to recognise individual playing skills.

In Bahrain and the UAE tournaments are already underway to determine teams.

On the sidelines of the GSMC, a Scrabble open is to be held concurrently at the Fujairah Hilton Hotel in autumn where all other Gulf players may participate.

A dozen Scrabble clubs are known to exist in the Gulf. The oldest of them is the Dhahran (Saudi Arabia) Scrabble Group, founded a quarter of a century ago and claiming a hundred members. Some

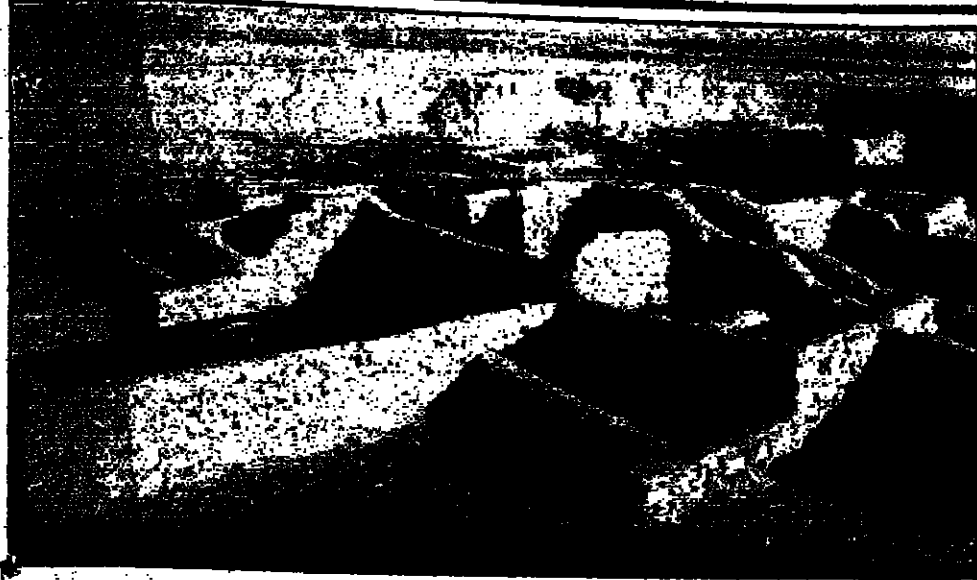
of their players have placed well in North American tournaments.

Commenting from London on the Gulf competition, Leonard Hodge, Scrabble Club co-ordinator for Spear's Games, manufacturers of Scrabble, said: "I'm very pleased the way the Scrabble Club movement is developing in the Gulf. This latest move of Gulf Scrabble Masters Tournament is very exciting. On the other hand, plans are also being formulated for a world championship, and it's good to know that the top Scrabble players in the Gulf will be known and able to pit their wits against the world's best."

Gulf tournament organisation is being co-ordinated through the following principal groups:

- Bahrain Scrabble Club, P.O. Box 10721, Manama, Bahrain
- Seep Novotel Scrabble Club, P.O. Box 1069, Seep Airport, Oman
- Dhahran Scrabble Group, Saudi Aramco P.O. Box 2027, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
- Fujairah Scrabble Club, P.O. Box 747, Fujairah, UAE.

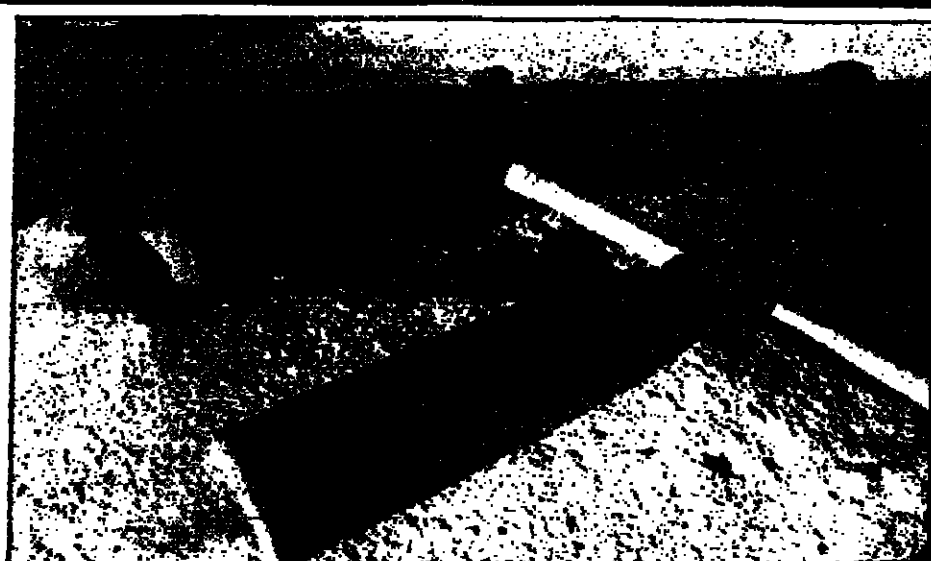
While bridge, backgammon and chess competitions are common in the Gulf, a Scrabble contest has never been held for the region. In Britain, national championships have already been staged for the past 20 years. In North America, annual tournaments bring together upwards of 500 aficionados. Since 1987, the six-year-old Bahrain league has organised four nation-wide Scrabble cup championships. The word game itself was first conceived nearly 60 years ago.



The earliest building so far excavated dates back to 2000 BC.



The Hellenistic complex is more recent and was built around 300 BC.



Cannons unearthed in the ruins of Failaka Island.

Story of different periods still unfolding

Failaka Island: centre of Kuwait's archaeological heritage

By Derek Kennet

MOST KUWAITIS have been to Failaka Island. In fact it is a popular place to spend Fridays during the spring and autumn. The island lies in the mouth of Kuwait Bay just 12 and a half miles from Kuwait City, a distance covered in half an hour in the hydrofoil boats. It is also well-known that the island has been the object of a considerable amount of archaeological investigation since the Danish mission first came here in 1958. However, visitors to the excavations are probably puzzled by a mass of stone walls in the bottom of six-foot-deep holes. Who built these walls and, more importantly, all of the big archaeological sites in Kuwait are on Failaka—why is this?

One of the reasons is probably related to the strategic position which Failaka occupies in relation to

Kuwait Bay. Kuwait Bay is the only good harbour in the whole of the northern Arabian Gulf and Failaka's position means that no ship could enter or leave the bay without being seen from the island.

More interestingly we should note that it is nearly always the islands of the Arabian Gulf where the major archaeological discoveries have been made: Bahrain, Umm Al Nar (Dubai), Akkuz (Kuwait Bay), Kharg Island (Iraq) and Failaka. Why is it that in ancient times man chose to live on these islands? The answer to this is probably related to security from desert raiders. It is a problem that is encountered wherever settlers live on the fringes of the harsh desert environment, the domain of the desert nomads or bedouin. In the past the bedouin were, more often than not, outside the control of the rulers of the surrounding

kingdoms such as the Roman or Sassanian empires. On top of this raiding used to form an integral part of the bedouin's culture and economy. There was often continuing friction between the settled communities on the desert edge and the seemingly lawless desert raiders. It is very difficult for small farming communities to afford adequate defences against the constant threat of raiding. Defensive structures are expensive to build and costly to maintain. The solution in the Gulf was simple and cheap: go and live on an island.

As islands go Failaka has, or at least had, the added advantage that there was fresh water at a few metres below ground surface. This obviously made life on Failaka much easier. In fact we know that until a few years ago the people of Kuwait City would sail out on boats to bring fresh water back

from the wells of Failaka.

All of this makes it clear why most of Kuwait's archaeological heritage is located on the island. But still there are many questions which need to be answered: Was the island continually inhabited throughout its history or were there periods when no-one lived there at all? And what sort of life did the island's inhabitants lead, were they involved in the large-scale international trade or were they simple farmers?

With assistance from Philip Morris a team of French archaeologists have been working in collaboration with the Kuwait National Museum to try and answer these questions.

The earliest building so far excavated on the island is very old indeed, it dates to 2000 BC (4,000 years ago) and is part of a fairly sophisticated complex. The building itself is

very large with three-metre-thick walls. The indications are that this building was a tower of sorts and the most logical conclusion is that it was a watchtower and lighthouse. Failaka's position relating to sea faring has already been described. The presence of this tower is an indication that the inhabitants of the island at this period were involved in trading. This conclusion is backed up by the large number of merchant's seals which came from the excavation, many of them made from imported stone.

More recent than this is the well-known Hellenistic complex. This was built around 300 BC and seems to have been the home of a small number of Greeks. The complex is small, square village surrounded by a defensive wall and ditch. The people who lived inside clearly considered themselves distinct from the other inhabitants of the

island. It is fairly sure that they were Greek as they bought with them many of their native Greek customs. For example, they built themselves a Greek temple and imported wine from the island of Rhodes in the Aegean. But what were Greeks doing on Failaka? We know that Alexander the Great had already conducted an overland expedition as far as India. He did this because he was interested in the trading opportunities with this part of the world. He also sent his admiral back by sea with instructions to chart and describe the route. The Greek living on Failaka were probably charged with keeping open the route and providing a refuge for ships sailing to and from the east.

Later, during the Sassanian period (around 600 AD) the island was host to a Christian community, members of the church of Nestorjors which was

expelled from the Byzantine empire in the middle of the fifth century. These people built themselves a large and splendid church in the middle of the island but it seems as though they lived simple lives as farmers and fishermen playing little part in trade.

This gives some idea of the different periods of occupation which Failaka has seen, but the digging is still going on and the story is still unfolding. Most of the buildings described can be visited on the island and give a good idea of the island's past grandeur.

Whilst interviewing an elderly fisherman from Failaka I asked him where life had been better when he was a boy, in Kuwait or on Failaka. Of course he replied that life has been better on Failaka, when I asked him why his reply was simple: Failaka is like Paris! Well, it seems that not so long ago it probably was...

Council no substitute

(Continued from Page 1)

have the right to withdraw until June 5.

Up till yesterday no new candidates for Qibla had registered raising the chances of the two candidates to be elected unopposed.

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the seventh day:

1st constituency — Sharq
Mohamed Mohamed Al Mijid
Fahed Ibrahim Ma'rufi
Khaled Khaled Al Zink

2nd constituency — Mirqab
Tarek Abdullah Al Drais
Mohamed Khalil Al Rajai

4th constituency — Da'ya
Salem Ali Bou Rabia
Mohamed Taha Hussain

5th constituency — Qadsiya
Ahmed Haji Bou Abbas
Abdul Hamed Kraib

6th constituency — Faiha
Gazi Abdullah Al Jassar
Yousef Abdullah Al Jassar

8th constituency — Hawalli
Toukan Fahed Al Toukain
Salem Salim Ganim
Yaqoub Yusef Al Ali
Ali Mulla Mulla Ali
Ahmed Saleh Al Dourman

9th constituency — Rawda
Faisal Naser Al Hassawi

11th constituency — Khaldiya
Shabeh Abdullah Al Ghanim

13th constituency — Rumaihiya
Abdulla Mohamed Jassim
Majid Moutlak Al Roumadi
Mohamed Hassan Al Estah

15th constituency — Farwaniya
Saleh Mharib Al Jassar

17th constituency — Jleeb Al Shuyoukh
Majid Zayed Al Dajani

18th constituency — Sulaybiqhat
Khalid Dmaithir Al Izei

19th constituency — New Jahra

Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Thafiri
Muslim Abdullah Al Rasheed
Khaled Saoud Al Inez

20th constituency — Jahra
Mash'an Ma'id Al Azemi
Ali Abdullah Al Saad

Fahed Abdullah Al Shimari
Khashman Manouh Al Thafiri
Khalaf Naser Mikif

22nd constituency — Riqa
Ali Abdullah Al Muntari
Nabar Fahed Al Ajmi
Ghat Misbah Al Azemi

23th constituency — Subahiya
Nasser Mohamed Al Dousari
Ali Jaber Al Miri
Hadi Mbarak Al Hajiri

24th constituency — Fahadhel
Abdulla Ayad Al Khader
Fahed Ayed Al Da'sa
Bader Khashaif Al Azemi
Rashed Mohamed Al Khashem

25th constituency — Umm Al Haiman
Fahed Ayed Al Azemi
Fahed Hirmas Al Azemi
Fahed Al Dabagh Al Azemi

Kuna adds: Two ministers on Sunday commended the positive attitude and response of the citizens who fielded candidature for the national assembly elections.

They also praised the Kuwaiti individual's continued readiness to fulfil his national obligation either by nominating himself or casting his vote.

Asked to comment on claims by some that the planned national council will substitute the national assembly, Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad said the council would be a forum for consultation and exchange of views in a quiet atmosphere.

The council, he explained, will undertake a thorough and careful assessment of the previous parliamentary experience to find the best means for avoiding any pitfalls that may hinder progress of the next national assembly.

Sheikh Jaber Mubarak reassured that the national council is a transitional one, as obvious in HH the Amir's address, entrusted with a definite assignment and for a limited period not exceeding four years.

The minister of information concluded that recommendations reached by the interim national council would be referred to the next national assembly, which will be elected according to the country's constitution of 1962, for appropriate action.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwait lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1985 on visa No. 20. This was changed to visa No. 18 in Jan 1989. I left the country and re-entered on the new visa. They terminated my services in February this year because I was absent from work due to illness and could not do overtime on weekdays and Fridays.

I worked overtime from July to October last year but the overtime payment was not made. They suspended me for three days. Later, they terminated my services and gave me two months to find a new job.

Can I get a transfer of residence under the law? Who will pay my air fare in case the transfer can't be done? Am I entitled to payment for the rest of my contract? Am I entitled to get any benefits? If the company refuses to pay, whom should I approach?

An employee who has been absent for more than seven consecutive working days without a valid reason, then they have fired you according to article 55. If you were absent for less than seven days, then, you cannot be fired under that article.

The company does not have the right to force you to work — they can ask you to work overtime daily and on Friday but the company must give you overtime.

If you were absent for less than seven days, you are entitled to get end of service benefits. You can't get a transfer of residence as you have not completed three years service with the company; you cannot get an exemption as you have not stayed continuously on visa No. 18 for 10 years.

Regarding overtime and Friday payment for four months between July to October, you can ask for the overtime payment as you put in extra hours of work.

About the air ticket, the company is responsible for your leaving the country on final cancellation of visa according to special affairs resolution, provided there is nothing in the

contract saying otherwise. The end of contract benefits can be decided by the social affairs or the court depending on whether you had a valid reason for your absence from work.

MY query is regarding article 54 of the labour law covering termination indemnity. As a monthly salaried worker, I held a fixed three year contract with my employer. I believe that I am entitled to end of contract indemnity according to clause 8 of the said article.

Please tell me how my daily or hourly wages are calculated. I draw a salary of \$600 per month.

IF THE contract is limited for a period of time, at the end of the period, any one of the two parties can terminate the contract and the employee can get the benefits. Because both parties agree to the termination of the contract, the employee can get the benefits. But if the contract is limited for a period of time and at the end of which both parties don't sign a new contract, the same contract becomes an unlimited contract and the conditions remain unchanged, however the duration is unlimited. In this case, the situation changes.

According to Article 52, Kuwait Labour Law, stipulates: "If the labour contract is made for a fixed period and both parties continue to implement it after its expiry, it shall be deemed renewed for an unlimited period under the same conditions specified therein."

Article 83 says covers the situation in case the situation changes. To compute daily or hourly rate, divide total salary by 26 days and then divide the daily rate by eight hours to get the hourly payment.

I AM working for a private contract. I am going home on leave after two years. According to my contract I am entitled for 21 calendar days leave

per year. Do I get 42 days plus the Fridays for the two year period?

K.S. Kakkar FIRST of all, you did not mention your period of employment with the company. Secondly, according to the labour law, article 38, covering annual leave for private sector labourers, every labourer who has completed one year continuous service is entitled to a leave of 14 days with full pay. This is increased to 21 days following the fifth year of continuous service. The law entitles you to get 14 working days, excluding Fridays.

As you have a contract, in your case, this depends on the contract and you are entitled to 21 calendar days, the company is giving you more than what is stipulated in the law. So you are entitled to 21 days leave per year.

ONE of my friends worked in a company for 12 years and went on vacation for three months. During his vacation, he fell ill and requested the company to extend his leave by 45 days, based on doctor's advice. He has also submitted duly attested doctor's certificates.

Would you please advise whether the labour law, a company has the right to terminate his service or extend his leave?

Abbas Ali THERE must be a valid reason for you to be absent from work. According to article 63 says that in case of illness, a medical report must be submitted. In case of a dispute, the medical report is sent to the Ministry of Public Health, through the Social Affairs Ministry. The report made by the health ministry is considered final.

You can approach the social affairs and your friend's documents will be sent to the Public Health Ministry, and if the reason is a valid one, the company will have to pay, according to Article 64 of the law (full month's wages for a period of six months and half month's wages if the period exceeds six months).

Zayed to embark on 3 country visit

ABU DHABI, May 6, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan hailed the friendly and deep-rooted relations that link Arabs to Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian peoples.

Sheikh Zayed made the remarks during separate interviews with journalists from the three countries ahead of his visits to China, Japan and Indonesia starting tomorrow.

Asked about the aim of his visit to China, Sheikh Zayed said that the mission was aimed at boosting co-operation between the two countries with special emphasis on what serves the prosperity and interest of the two peoples.

"Besides enhancing bilateral co-operation, our visit to China will be an opportunity to get acquainted with the accomplishments in China in various development domains," Sheikh Zayed said.

Referring to the accomplishments made by the UAE since its independence in 1971, Sheikh Zayed told the Chinese media delegates that the development and prosperity realised by the UAE within this short period was due to a rapid economic growth and "our determination to achieve further progress and raising citizen's living standards."

"With the blessing of God the Almighty, our hope is great to proceed towards attaining further progress and prosperity," Sheikh Zayed said.

In response to a question on UAE efforts to achieve Arab unity and strengthen co-operation with developing nations, Sheikh Zayed said "our faith in God comes first, then comes our strong belief in the necessity of establishing friendship and co-operation among all countries as there is common interest for humanity as a whole... we also believe that the power, progress and prosperity of the Arabs lies in their co-operation," he said.

In a separate interview with a Japanese media team, President Sheikh Zayed hailed the strong relations between the UAE and Japan especially in the economic field.

"The important issue that governs relations between countries is the reciprocation of good intentions between two friends... what is achieved out of this good intention is considered useful and pleasant," Sheikh Zayed said.

On his visit to Japan, Sheikh Zayed said that he would meet with Japanese leaders to exchange views on issues of mutual interest with the aim of boosting co-operation between the two countries in various areas, specially in the economic domain.

Amiri grant for students

KUWAIT, May 6, (Kuna): HH the Amir has designated an annual grant to be offered to outstanding and talented members of the Science Club and secondary schools students, the Science Club announced today.

Winners of the Amiri grant will make all expense-paid trips to scientific centres in advanced countries.

The club affirmed that the Amiri Grant has been met with utmost appreciation and gratitude by Science Club officials, who have already begun preparing members to take part in trips to Britain, France, West Germany, US Tunisia, Jordan and Cairo.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I NEVER met a rich man who was happy, but I have only very occasionally met a poor man who did not want to become a rich man — Malcolm Muggeridge, English writer (1903-).

ANC meets govt Dawn of change in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, (AP): After centuries of racial conflict, South Africa is facing whirlwind change as the government and its opponents negotiate to end white domination and try to find a new way to live together.

But even as the country witnesses scenes unthinkable a year or two ago, there are enormous divisions and problems to overcome. For all the rapid political change now under way, much remains the same. The government and the African National Congress, the leading black nationalist group, began talks Wednesday to clear the way for full-scale constitutional negotiations.

For South Africans, the meeting created scenes symbolizing the historic change facing the country.

Cabinet

The head of a white-minority government, President FW De Klerk, and his cabinet minister and charged with ANC leaders on the sprawling grounds of an old colonial mansion that represented centuries of white wealth and privilege.

Nelson Mandela, released less than three months ago after 27 years in jail, complimented De Klerk on what he was trying to do for South Africa.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and top security officials posed for picture with Walter Sisulu and other ANC leaders imprisoned for decades.

Both sides talked of ending injustice and oppression and spoke of their hopes for a new, democratic nation. Mandela, in a reference to 350 years of white domination, said the two sides were finally ending a "terrible tradition of... master and servant."

The two sides stressed the need for rapid progress and warned that peace hopes depend on swiftly finding a solution.

The government and the ANC face enormous obstacles in solving the country's divisions. Both sides remain fundamentally divided on key issues.

De Klerk says he is committed to ending discrimination, but major apartheid laws, including segregated neighbourhoods and schools, still remain. The 28 million blacks have no political rights and the 5 million whites monopolize the country's wealth.

De Klerk has repeatedly rejected a simple one-person, one-vote democratic system. He says such a system would replace white domination with black control and there would be no guarantee for white rights.

Government objectives for a new constitution, according to senior officials, include some form of white legislative veto power; a bill of rights and the protection of private property; free enterprise; and some form of white and black transitional government with white control of the security forces.

Languages

The officials also say that along with English, one of the official languages should continue to be Afrikaans, the tongue of the Dutch-descended Afrikaners who account for 3 million of the white population and control the government.

The ANC has very different goals. It insists on a full democracy with no special rights for any ethnic or racial group. It is committed to redistributing wealth to aid the millions of impoverished blacks.

Many political observers say the country's economic and social divisions may be harder to solve than its political problems.

"Black political leadership is faced with the fact that the constituency it intends to represent is relatively very poor... for them politics has to be about economics and wealth distribution," said Jan Sneya, head of the Urban Foundation, a private group that focuses on improving black living conditions.

White leaders are equally insistent on safeguarding private control of business.

Critics say it would take generations to meet even the most basic needs of the black majority, such as housing and education, if the economy is not restructured.

Leaders on both sides believe the government and the ANC will find some solution because they have no other choice.

Both sides have staked much of their credibility on securing an agreement. They are under pressure from black and white extremists who oppose any power-sharing settlement.

Constitution

Government sources said on condition of not being identified that without an agreement on a transitional government and a new constitution, the influence of right-wing whites is likely to grow.

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party won 31 per cent of the vote in parliamentary elections for whites last September.

White right-wing leaders have called on supporters to arm themselves and be ready to defend their rights against a black majority government. Several white vigilante organizations have formed.

The ANC faces similar opposition from radical black groups that talk of ending all white control and influence through armed struggle. ANC leaders say many young blacks do not want a peaceful settlement with the government.

"One should understand the very serious predicament of the ANC in regard to the deep suspicion in the minds of millions of young militant blacks who simply do not believe in the sincerity of the government," said Beyers Naude, a white Afrikaner cleric on the ANC negotiating team.

More than 600 blacks have died this year in an upsurge of factional fighting and clashes with police that coincided with De Klerk's relaxation of restrictions on political protest.

Young ANC supporters are also engaged in battles for power in black townships against rival organizations such as the Pan Africanist Congress and the Inkatha Party headed by Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1703 — British under Duke of Marlborough occupy Electorate of Cologne and subsequently take Bonn while Savoy's Prince Eugene conducts campaign in Rhineland and southern Germany.

1777 — US cruiser Surprise captures British ship Prince of Orange in English Channel.

1821 — British African Company is dissolved because of heavy expense, and Sierra Leone, Gambia and Gold Coast are taken over by British government to form British West Africa.

1848 — Polish surrender after Prussian troops crush insurrection in Warsaw.

1915 — Germans sink British liner Lusitania off Irish coast, and more than 1,000 people perish.

1943 — Allied forces take Tunis and Bizerte, and Germans retire to Cap Bon peninsula in World War II.

1954 — Dien Bien Phu is lost by French forces to North Vietnamese.

1970 — Somalia nationalizes all foreign oil companies and banks.

1971 — United States removes all controls on use of dollars in US transactions with China.

1987 — Austria's President Kurt Waldheim, alleged to have Nazi past, empowers state prosecutor's office to take legal action for slander against head of World Jewish Congress.

1988 — Rival Shiite Muslim militias fight fierce street battles for control of south Beirut's slums.

1989 — Students leaders at China's Beijing University, pressing demands for democratic reforms, say they will continue to boycott classes for at least five more days.

Nato to undergo restructuring

Soviet fear of Germany put to rest

BRUSSELS, (Reuters): Nato is hoping to reap a rich harvest with its decision to drop controversial plans to modernise short-range nuclear missiles and artillery in Europe.

The decision, taken at a meeting of foreign ministers on Thursday, is the first part of major restructuring of the 16-nation alliance now that the cold war is over. It also lays to rest an issue that has caused major problems for Nato.

"There are enormous benefits to be gleaned from this decision, if it is correctly understood by the Soviet Union and by our peoples," said one senior Nato diplomat.

Modernise

Since the Berlin Wall was opened last November and democracy came to Eastern Europe, it has become increasingly clear that Nato could not modernise its short-range nuclear arsenal, with a range of less than 500 km (300 miles).

Such weapons, currently based almost exclusively in West Germany, could be used only on the territory of a united Germany or on the soil of Eastern European nations.

With the sharp reduction in the Soviet military threat, Nato has apparently made a virtue out of necessity.

The decision could help convince the Soviet Union that a newly united Germany would not pose a military threat and that it should be a member of the Western alliance — something that Moscow has so far opposed.

"It is no coincidence that the announcement is coming just before the talks on German unification," the diplomat said.

Foreign ministers from the four World War II allied powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain — are meeting their counterparts from the two Germanys in Bonn, to discuss the security aspects of German unification.

Beneficial

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner noted at a news conference on Thursday that the decision to stop modernisation could have a beneficial effect on those talks.

"I think it will... help find a solution to the German question," he said.

Nato sources say it is also meant to pre-empt expected Soviet demands that united Germany should be demilitarised.

But the alliance is also hoping that public opinion, anxious to cash in the "peace dividend" after four decades of East-West confrontation, will appreciate the move.

"The nuclear issue is the one that upsets most people about defence," said another Nato diplomat, who asked not to be identified. "Here, we are showing that we can take initiative, that we can change with the times."

Nato sources say, that the alliance will, in future, rely most exclusively on nuclear bombs and a new generation of air-launched missiles to protect Western Europe.

The ministers also agreed to early talks with Moscow on cutting remaining short-range nuclear force (SNF), an area in which the Soviet Union has a more than ten-fold superiority.

Talks

Nato had previously said these could only begin after the implementation of an accord on cutting

conventional forces in Europe (CFE).

Now, they have decided that those talks can start as soon as the ink is dry on the agreement, expected later this year.

As the alliance seeks a more political role in Europe's future security, it has also put behind it one of the most divisive issues in its 40-year history.

Britain and the United States had upset many of the other allies last year by insisting on a quick modernisation of the 88 ageing US-built Lance missile launchers in Europe.

The ensuing row led to a compromise that put the issue on ice until 1992. But the recent changes in Eastern Europe brought the issue up again, with several Nato members — including West Germany and Belgium — saying publicly that modernisation was out of the question.

Harmony obstacle removed

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The US decision to scrap plans for a new nuclear missile in Western Europe removes a prime obstacle to Nato harmony and could speed East-West arms reductions, defence experts said on Thursday.

You win all round with a move like that even if it was obvious that the missile was dead," said former assistant defence secretary Larry Korb. "You save dollars, please the Soviets and dump an issue that was splitting the Western alliance."

Bowing to a wall of opposition from allies and Congress, President George Bush said on Thursday the United States would not build a new short-range missile to replace ageing Lance missiles in West Germany that are pointed at Eastern Europe.

Bush also said he was ending modernisation of 2,000 155mm nuclear artillery shells in Western Europe, shells that could dig craters in Allied soil and were unlikely to be used anyway with democracy blooming in the Warsaw Pact.

Korb and other private analysts such as Barry Blechman praised the announcement and said it could create an atmosphere for quicker agreement on reduction of conventional forces in Europe (CFE) and for further superpower nuclear deals.

"I think reality has dawned on the White House. When you count the tit-for-tats on unilateral force cuts, Moscow was way of head Washington before today," said Blechman, an analyst with the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute.

Korb, an expert with the Washington-based Brookings Institution, said that perhaps the most surprising announcement by Bush at a White House news conference on Thursday was that Nato was prepared to begin talking about further short-range nuclear reductions immediately after a CFE agreement is signed.

The previous position of Nato defence ministers, who will hold a nuclear planning session in Canada next week, was that such East-West talks would not begin before a CFE agreement was actually implemented.

The meeting near Calgary next Wednesday and Thursday is likely to get a lot more smoothly in the wake of the Bush announcement, said James Blackwell of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"It will certainly please Bonn," Blackwell said. "It will also ease some Soviet objections to a reunified Germany joining Nato without ground-based nuclear missiles."

Most of the 88 Lance launchers, which could hurl their ageing missiles only 70 miles (112 km), were based in West Germany near its borders with East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Nato military officials have pressed hard for the Lance replacement, saying the older missile would be obsolete and virtually unusable after the mid-1990s. The Lance dates back to 1972.

Opponents to both the Lance and its proposed "follow-on," which would have had a range of nearly 300 miles (480 km), said that the missiles were no longer needed and that they would strike only West Germany and countries that are no longer a threat to the West.

The nuclear artillery shells have a range on only 9-18 miles (15-30 km). Experts said the death of Lance still leaves the difficult question of what type of air-launched nuclear cruise missiles Nato would use as a deterrent to attack.

"But the Lance death now may be just as important as the original Lance deployment," said Korb. "This announcement certainly could foster an atmosphere for Moscow and Washington to agree on air-launched strategic arms."

Kohl to convince West Germans

BONN, (Reuters): After working out a deal on monetary union with East Berlin, Chancellor Helmut Kohl now has to win agreement from those who will pay for it — West German voters.

Kohl went a long way towards pleasing East Germans with the plan, disregarding economics to pledge that wages, pensions and much of their savings will be paid out in full in one of the world's strongest currencies, the West German mark, from July 2.

The hurried operation aims to help his fellow Christian Democrats in East Germany where voters can pass their judgement in the country's first local polls on Sunday.

Kohl is still only the West German chancellor and his fortunes rest — until all-German elections next year — on what voters here decide in general elections this December.

Generous

They seem increasingly less interested in being generous to "brothers and sister in the East" and more and more worried about how much unity will cost.

Only 15 per cent of those polled favoured exchanging East for West German marks at a one-to-one rate in the monetary union now set to be launched on July 2, the magazine Spiegel reported in its latest edition.

A full 60 per cent insisted on an across-the-board rate of two-to-one, which would keep Bonn's costs low and possible avoid inflation, further interest rate rises and the tax hikes Kohl repeatedly says will not be needed.

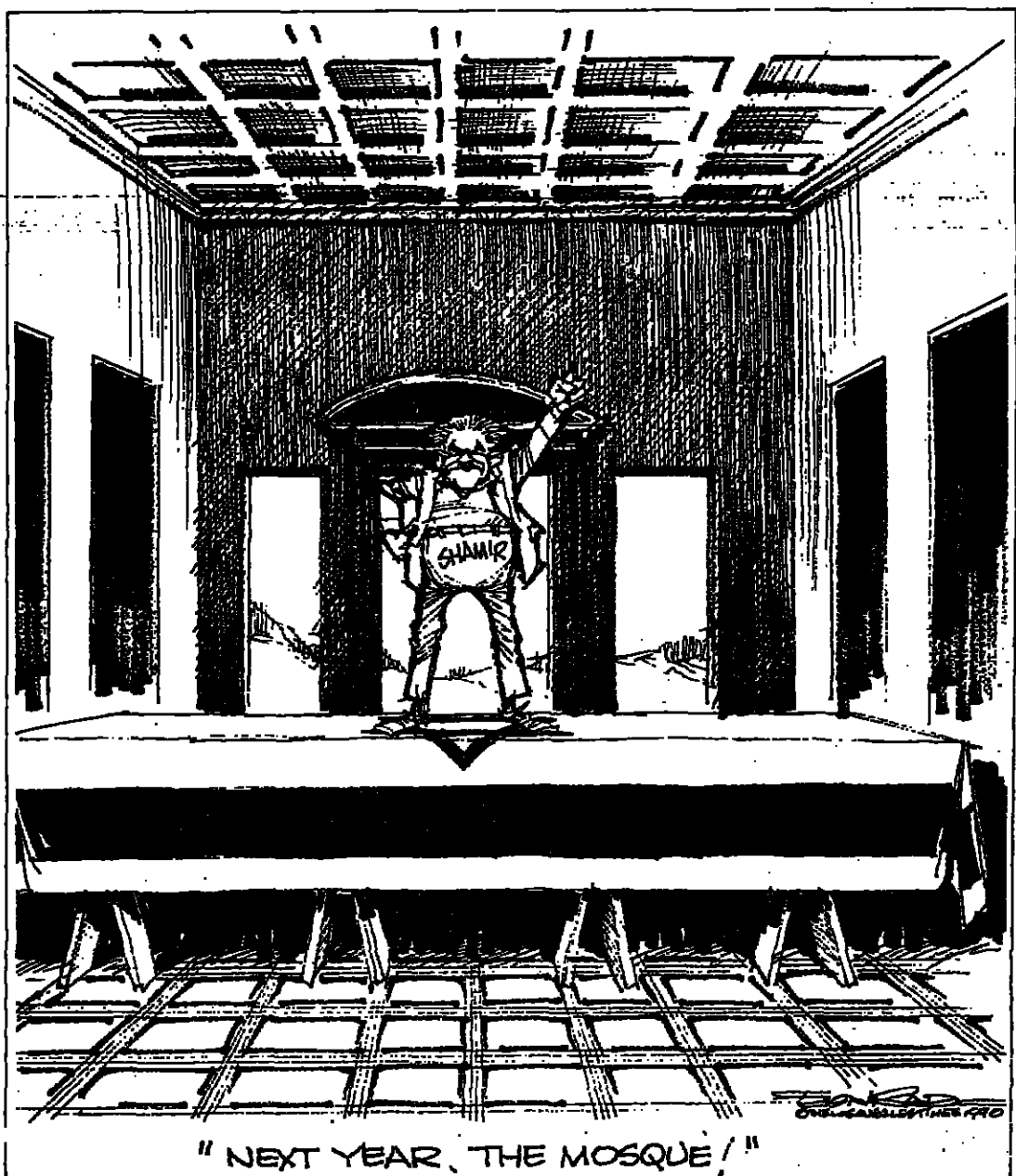
The percentage of those polled expressing concern about the value of their strong deutschemark, the pride of West Germany's post-war economic miracle, has risen from 47 in February to 52 in March and 60 in April.

"For the first time in his 40 years as a politician, Kohl acted in a way that only a fraction of the population thought was right," Spiegel commented. "On the other issues, he has always had at least a very strong minority on his side."

Kohl's centre-right coalition still leads the opposition in the opinion polls, even if his peppy Social Democratic (SPD) rival Oskar Lafontaine is personally more popular.

The SPD is a weak challenger, though, especially after Lafontaine was stabbed by a would-be assassin a week ago.

Lafontaine left hospital on Wednesday, a scarf around his neck to hide the knife wound that almost killed him, and cannot campaign for the SPD for crucial state polls on May 13.



The energetic 46-year-old, who is not expected to spend too many weeks off the campaign trail and could return with a sympathy bonus, sees time on his side.

Letters to the editor

Price hikes

SIR: The people of Pakistan were given the idea during the past thirteen years that democracy is the only beam of light which can bring the country out of the darkness of hatred and confrontation. It is the solution of the ailing economic imbalance and poverty. It is the source of eradication of illiteracy.

The dawn of democracy dawned when schedule of election was declared by the late president General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq. Only 30 per cent votes were cast in favour of the ruling party, however in good faith the affairs of government as a majority party were handed over to them. The people were happy that the new government would alleviate their economic burden and that peace would return to the country, but hardly a month has gone by when the gas charges were increased by 46 per cent, thereafter another 15 per cent increase was done along with electricity charges.

Water charges have also been increased enormously. The prices of all the commodities have soared. When the public started crying that the inflation was unbearable, the IMF was blamed for such price hike and enhancement of taxes, whereas the IMF has only advisory status and can't force any nation to implement its advice.

India refused to implement such instructions only a few days before. All taxes have been increased, it is becoming unbearable for the middle class to keep its collar white.

The recent price hike of petrol, kerosene and diesel

oil has proved to be back breaker of the common man at large. One fails to understand when the cost of petrol per litre according to international market is Rs. 2.25. What were the motives behind this unwarranted increase. The government was already selling at Rs. 7.77 per litre, Rs. 5.5 profit was more than enough.

Brotherly Muslim countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran are giving petrol at reduced rates to Pakistan, where does the profit of Rs. 55 crores go? One cannot say, most probably for horse trading which has lowered the image of Pakistani parliamentarians in the comity of nations. The new price per litre is set at Rs. 10 — where would the additional money go to? Only Jaffery the economic advisor of the country can explain.

Bangladesh sells petrol at Rs. 4/- per litre. Can the public still bear the burden of this hike? I think not. This hike has affected the whole market, eatables which are barely necessary to keep the soul and body together are getting out of the reach of the common man.

Soon there will be only two classes, the rich and the poor, the middle class is being eradicated very rapidly. The excise duty of Rs. 1.5 per ice cream cup has made children unhappy.

This latest price hike has been done under a martial law ordinance of 1962, issued by the late F.M. Ayub Khan. It was not presented to the National Assembly for approval, one wonders why a democratic government has nipped democracy in the bud, how it defied the constitution of 1973. Should one presume that

democrats and dictators are chips of the same block, but they use different faces and methods to fool the public.

Democracy has only brought misery for the people of Pakistan. With a population of 110 million people, Pakistan has more than 100 ministers and advisers, whereas India with a population of 800 million people has only 30 ministers. One wonders how the empty treasury is bearing the burden of 100 ministers and advisers. The burden of democracy can be borne by the literate nations, not by the nation whose literacy rate has fallen to a shameful lowest ebb of 10 per cent only.

The colleges and universities are close for the last two years. Daily seizure of cars and robbing of banks, travel agencies have further aggravated the situation. I would at the end say that the broken back of the poor can be relieved by taking the said petrol duty back. Let us preserve the future generation as other nations of the world are doing. Let every child has education according to this choice and abilities.

M. S. Sulehry,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Moscow Economy could cost Gorbys

MOSCOW, (Reuters): "Reforms — yes. Unemployment and inflation — no" proclaimed a banner held high by a knot of working class Muscovites under the gaze of President Mikhail Gorbachev on Red Square on May Day.

And while the unprecedented jeering of Kremlin leaders by a small group of radical marchers caught world attention, for many foreign and Soviet analysts it was the workers' slogan that underlines the major challenge he faces.

For as the Soviet Union slides deeper into crisis, it was a reminder that the promised switch to a market economy his closest advisers argue can provide the only way out is sparking mounting fear — and opposition — across the country.

Doubt

On a three-day visit to a key industrial region of the Ural last week, Gorbachev left no doubt that he was reading the signals and pledged to workers there that would be no "shock therapy" for Soviet economic ills.

A new package of measures aimed at effecting the transfer from the failing planned economy to what he had earlier billed as a full-blooded market would only be implemented after "consultation with the people," he said.

And in May Day speeches delivered from the Red Square mausoleum of state founder Vladimir Lenin as he listened silently, leaders of the country's official trade unions declared they must be no cut in workers' living standards.

Millions of Soviet workers, until now secure in the knowledge that they had a job for life, have clearly been alarmed by increasing admissions by official economists that things would certainly change under a market system.

According to the respected independent journal Kommersant this week, 58 per cent of the adult population now favoured the introduction of rationing as the best antidote for the widespread shortages of consumer goods and foodstuffs.

Only a year ago, just 40 per cent backed rationing — already in force across wide areas of the country on many basic food products.

Situation

The further swing, Kommersant, "means that over the past 12 months 50 million people have moved further away from an understanding of what measures and means can change the situation in the country for the better."

Opposition to economic reform is growing and time is not working in its (reform's) favour.

The band of Red Square marchers who on Tuesday booed Gorbachev and his colleagues as they stood on the spot from where dictator Josef Stalin often saluted the obedient masses were clearly not motivated by economic concerns.

Largely from the Moscow suburb of Zelenograd, they were supporters of dismissed corruption investigator Telman Gdlyan, their deputy in the Soviet Parliament, whom they regard as the victim of a Kremlin vendetta.

Their protest, and that of the wider section of May Day radical marchers opposing Gorbachev's imposition of an economic blockade on rebel Lithuania, went unreported by Soviet television or the major Moscow newspapers.

The officials news agency Tass said some marchers carried "extremist banners" and the Communist Party daily Pravda condemned what it called without elaboration "insulting attacks on the constitutional authorities."

"But although he could hardly have liked the barracking, it must be the growing challenge to radical economic reform that we saw reflected on the square that is worrying Gorbachev most today," said one senior foreign diplomat.

Market

Many supporters of the early introduction of a market economy accuse Communist Party conservatives and bureaucrats fearing for their own positions of spreading alarm over the switch from seven decades of centralised planning.

Prime Minister Ryzhkov himself complained that reports the Kremlin was opting for a "Polish solution" under which prices were freed and most government economic controls abandoned were aimed at sabotaging confidence in reform.

But despite figures published at the end of April showing a real decline in industrial output for the first time in years and a growing foreign debt, popular concern appears to have forced a partial government retreat.

The new package of reform measures — including laws on prices, free enterprise and foreign investment — which officials predicted confidently in March would be in place by July has clearly been postponed by several months.

Although Gorbachev told the Ural workers it would be presented to the Supreme Soviet in the middle of May, he said it would take from six to eight months for all the measures in the package to be fully elaborated.

Speaking on Moscow Radio on Wednesday, Deputy Premier and reform chief Leonid Abalkin said that unless the switch to a market system were implemented "we will deprive our children of the chance to live in a country they can be proud of."

But, clearly reflecting the demand for widespread measures to minimise the effect of the change on incomes and on the poorer sections of the population, Abalkin said the government aimed to prevent a drop in living standards.

QUOTE ME

"This agreement shuts down the Pentagon dolphin pipeline. They won't be capturing any more dolphins from the Gulf of Mexico. Turning a benign, whimsical animal into an agent of war, a dolphin of doom, is kind of ludicrous. We feel it's the patriotic duty of Americans to stop this waste of taxpayer money and not allow the Navy to turn this peaceful animal into killers." — A spokesman of an animal welfare society after it forced the US Navy to stop the training of dolphins for warfare.

"I have risked my own reputation and told my organisation that Mr De Klerk is an honest man... they also should risk their own reputations and explain to the whites in this country that Mr Slovo was a true son of South Africa." — Nelson Mandela.

"The US administration bears the responsibility for any complications in this issue. The ball is now in America's court after the efforts that had been exerted by the Islamic Republic (of Iran) and Syria to free two Americans as a step towards resolving the question of all the hostages." — Hezbollah in a press release blaming the US for hindering the release of the remaining hostages.

ایمانی

HUNGARY

An Arab Times supplement to
commemorate Hungarian
Week in Kuwait



Hungary: democratic changes and stability

Written by: H.E. Mr Balint Gal, Ambassador of
the Republic of Hungary to the State of Kuwait

HUNGARY is currently passing through a period of deep changes and social, political and economic revival. The popular uprising of 1956 was not only the first attempt in Eastern Europe to disperse the one-party system of dictatorship but it was also the starting point of a long process full of successes and failures, full of ups and downs on the road of Hungary's political and economic progress that finally led to a parliamentary democracy with a multi-party system as a result of the most recent developments.

Paving the way
Despite its weaknesses due to certain half-way solutions and faint approaches, the Hungarian reform, the birth of which dates back to 1968, was the only one in Eastern Europe to have triggered a real substantial transformation of the former economic system. The Hungarian reform owes its significance mainly to the fact that it paved the way for new alternatives and it broke away from the former practices that might be called "the policy of closed doors."

Liberalisation
The policy of liberalisation which was a prerequisite for the success of the reform brought about more freedom, more space and more opportunities for the citizens and the enterprises. Comparatively favourable conditions were created for the strengthening of the middle classes. Thanks to the reform of 1968, a rapid growth took place in the industrial and agricultural production which resulted in a significant rise in the living standards and the consumption of the population. That process, however, did not last for very long. After the oil crisis the Hungarian national economy was not in spite of the widely commended achievements of the reforms, capable to adapt itself to the changes that took place in the world economy. In Hungary, economic policies failed to respond to the challenges of world market. As a consequence, balance problems arose, foreign debts increased dramatically in a trial to combat negative tendencies, and stagnation and inflationary processes started in the national economy.

The reform policies of the Soviet Union generally known as "perestroika" introduced in 1985 made it obvious for most of the Hungarian people that the main obstacle to the continuation of the economic and political transformation in Hun-

gary was not any longer represented by the bans and limits emanating from the geopolitical situation of the country but chiefly by the inadequacy of the old leadership of the party that was able to regenerate and change. This is well illustrated by the fact that the popularity index of the then secretary-general of the ruling Communist Party, Janos Kadar, fell dramatically within a very short period of time, although just a few years back the same Kadar had been considered by Western political observers as the only politician in the Eastern bloc to become the absolute winner even in a nation-wide secret ballot.

Market economy and political pluralism
In line with the loss of confidence in the party, the legitimacy of the government directed by the same party was questioned and criticised. At the extraordinary general conference of the Communist Party held in May 1988, the whole leadership was replaced by new faces, the decisions were adopted which encouraged market economy and political pluralism. Also inspired by the demands and criticism from political movements acting as the opposition, the reformist wing of the ruling party made an advance which resulted in the self-dissolution of the Communist Party in the autumn of 1989. In its place a new party named Hungarian Socialist Party was formed whose main principles agree with those of other European socialist and social-democratic parties. Parallely, the already existing independent political movements grew into strong political parties and that from the parliamentary elections held in spring the new parties could emerge with a majority of votes large enough to form a coalition government by themselves.

The newly elected Parliament was convened on May 2, 1990. Dr Jozsef Antall, the chairman of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, a party that has won 164 from 386 seats in Parliament, has been entrusted with the formation of the new government. Expectedly, the coalition will combine the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Independent Smallholders' Party and the Christian Democratic People's Party,

whereas the Alliance of Free Democrats, the Hungarian Socialist Party and the Federation of Young Democrats will play the role of a constructive opposition.

Peaceful transformation
This is how Hungary has benefited from the experience of her over-20-year-old economic reform and her relatively liberal practices peacefully and lawfully arriving by the spring of 1990, at a parliamentary democracy where there are free elections based on a multi-party system and on a state government by laws. This democracy aims at the creation of a market economy with all forms of ownership enjoying equal rights to exist and grow. The institutions necessary for that have been basically established, and more is being done to this end.

The peaceful transformation backed by the overwhelming majority of the population ensures that there is a political and economic stability needed to preserve the confidence of the international community for the solution of the difficult tasks that the Hungarian nation faces at present.

Sound bases
The birth of a multi-party democratic system is viewed by the Hungarian society as the starting point of a process leading to a deep-going transformation of the national economy as well. Rapid modernisation is to be achieved in a country where the financial means at hand are scarce, and the economic background is controversial. Hungary does possess sound bases in the fields of agriculture and industry, all the same those branches are yet to be modernised and made more competitive in terms of prices and quality through the importation of foreign capital, advanced technology and modern know-how. In order to create a receptive and responding environment for the application of the mentioned external factors, it is but urgent and imperative that all preconditions for a market economy with a marked social care orientation should be further developed. One of the basic elements of the change is the differentiated development of the various forms of ownership. Within the scope of the ownership reform the state ownership's share is to be reduced while private and



H.E. Ambassador Balint Gal

This article examines recent changes and social, economic and political revival in Hungary. Buoyed by the success of recent developments, Hungary has opened its markets to

foreign ownership as well as the forms of joint partnership are to be expanded. Probably the new government will very soon introduce bills to the Parliament on the institutional and jurisdictional provisions necessary for regulating the process of privatisation which must be promoted by preferential credits because of the limited amount of the available capital in private hands. A decisive role is expected to be played by direct foreign investments in the modernisation of the economy and the ownership structure. The government's foreign economic policy will probably aim at promoting the elimination of the still existing trade discrimination.

International co-operation
Hungarian foreign policy has been making great efforts in order to efficiently develop her relations with different international financial institutions and with various economic integration organisations first of all in Europe. This is a national issue bound to stand above everyday political debates between the Hungarian parties. At the same time it is Hungary's national interest to maintain a balanced relationship with all parties of the world so as to avoid the risks of a one-sided political and economic dominance. Only such an international co-operation can bring for Hungary modern technology, up-to-date management, and sufficient working capital: factories which, if combined, enable our country to preserve its sovereignty and to reduce the development gap within a relatively short period of time without running the risks of a massive impoverishment of the population.

There is hardly a country in the world that could solve its economic problems without foreign capital. The share of foreign capital investments in the industry in Hungary is just above two per cent, whereas some highly-developed medium-sized countries claim a ratio of more than 30 per cent as to the role of foreign capital in their economies. According to official figures, Spain, for example, received \$45 billion in terms of foreign investments between 1985 and 1989.

To the attention of Gulf Investors
For the past few years the Hungarian government has been taking a series of comprehensive measures meant to create the legal and material guarantees essential for the attraction of foreign capital into investments serving the progress of the national economy. We are confident that the favourable investment opportunities supported by relevant laws and international agreements will arouse the attention and interest of investors from the Gulf region too.

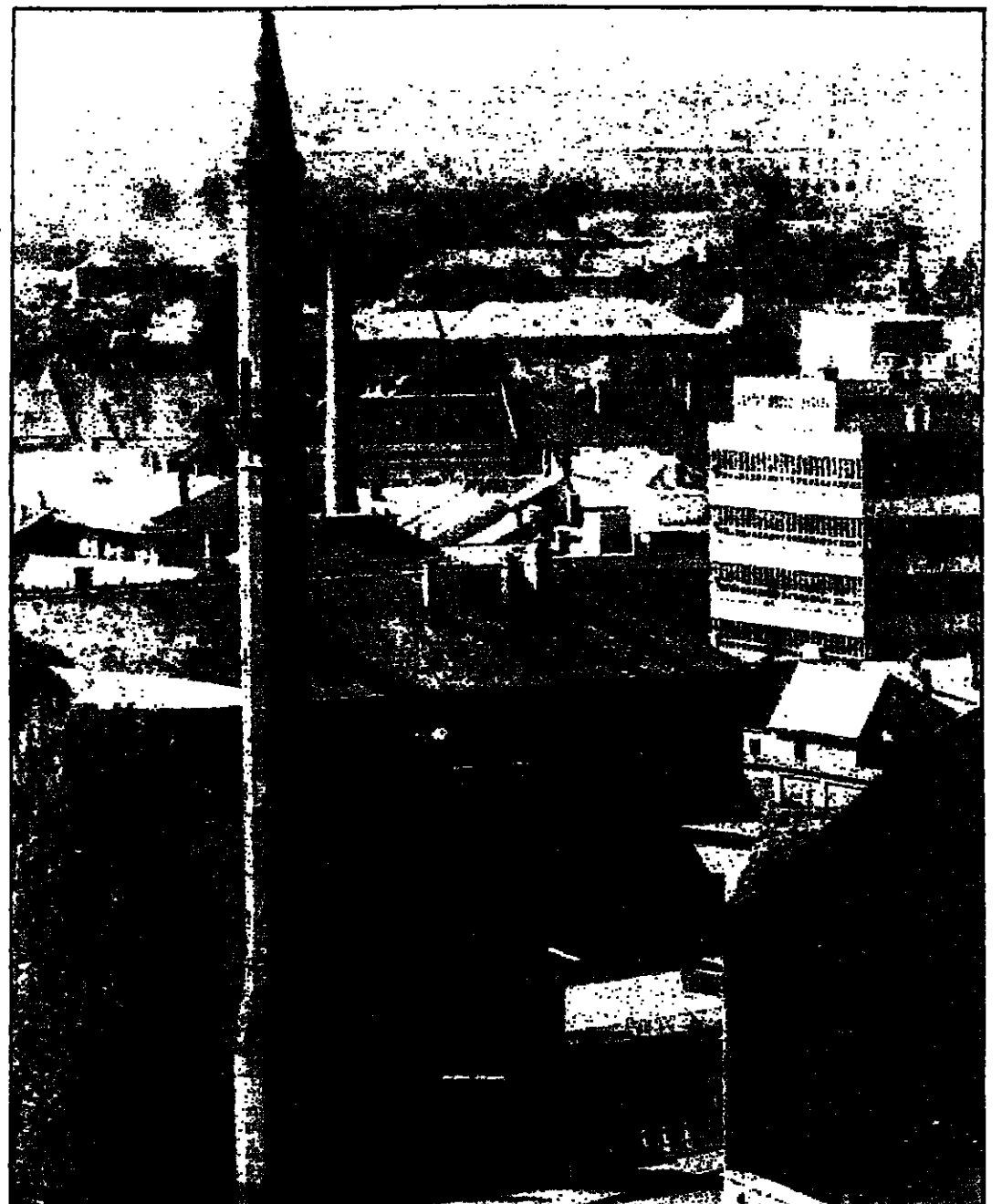
The government of the Republic of Hungary and our business circles have always been eager to foster and deepen the many-sided fruitful relationship between Hungary and the GCC states. We note with satisfaction that our partners in the Gulf have perceived our endeavours perfectly and that they have been most co-operative in responding to our goals. The mutual desire for, and interest in, the development of our relationship has been reflected by the fact that our political and diplomatic relations have been expanding with this part of the world, and a number of different consultations have taken place to discuss the future opportunities of our

bilateral co-operation. Our trade and economic relations with the Gulf region have also witnessed an impressive upswing. As a result of 40 per cent increase in the volume of Hungarian exports to the GCC as compared with last year's figures, Hungarian exports to the GCC states totalled \$125 million in 1989.

Mutual benefit for Hungary and Kuwait

With all respect to the traditionally excellent and constantly developing trade and economic relations between the Republic of Hungary and the State of Kuwait with a trade turnover reaching \$40 million (1989), we are especially satisfied that high-ranking officials of the two countries have been exchanging visits on a regular basis in order to discuss the ways of broadening our bilateral co-operation by adding new forms such as joint ventures and capital investments. Suffice it here to mention the recent visits to Budapest by the minister of electricity and water, the minister of social affairs and labour, and the minister of oil of the State of Kuwait, and the visits to Kuwait by the Hungarian minister of trade and the minister of finance, respectively. We are satisfied that an agreement was signed between the two countries in November 1989 for the encouragement and mutual protection of investments, and talks are on the way to conclude an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation.

The personal contacts between representatives of the two governments have reaffirmed the resolute desire of both sides to expand and further develop the existing bilateral relations and to open up every possible field of co-operation to the mutual benefit of our friendly countries.



An Islamic minaret in Eger, northeast Hungary. Islamic relics in Europe are located in the westernmost and northernmost parts of Hungary. Other cities also boast of Islamic art and monuments.

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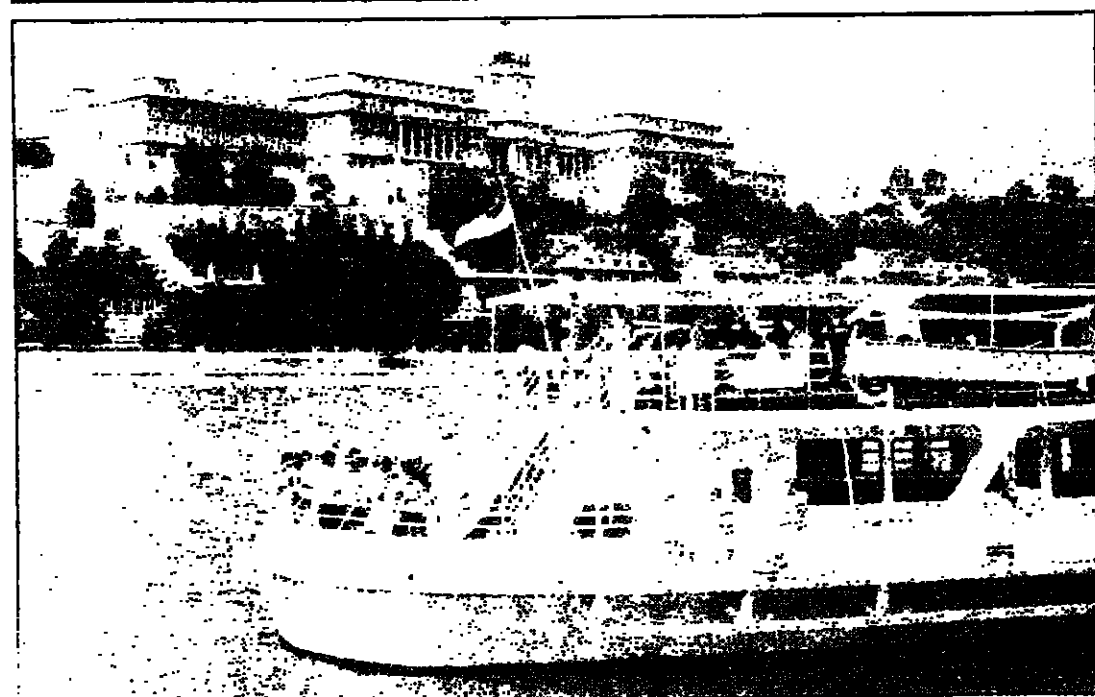
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Promising economic contacts between Hungary and Kuwait

UP to the early 1980s Hungary had significant export transactions through Kuwait to the Gulf countries, mainly to Saudi Arabia. After having established direct links to business circles in those countries, our exports to Kuwait dropped to an annual level of US\$20-25 million in the mid-eighties. Since 1988, when there were already signs for the revival of the economy of Kuwait, Hungarian companies became more active, and exploiting the boom, our exports are again increasing.

Hungarian-Kuwaiti economic relations are considered to be well organised and free of problems, and there is no discrimination against Hungarian companies in Kuwait. There are about 50 Hungarian companies active on the Kuwaiti market, and 10 have direct representations on the spot. During his visit to Kuwait in November 1989, Trade Minister Tamas Beck signed an agreement on the protection of investments, and we hope soon another agreement shall also be concluded to eliminate double taxation.

It was also during that November

visit that the Hungarian delegation suggested for the Kuwaiti party to set up an investment fund of Kuwaiti capital to assist the transformation of the Hungarian economy. The Hungarian initiative was favourably received both by the governmental and the financial circles, and the reaction of business circles was also positive. The investment fund project of US\$100-million would be supervised by the Kuwait International Investment Company with seat in Kuwait, and it was emphasised that Hungarian investment proposals were expected.

This was reinforced by the Kuwaiti side during a recent visit by Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi stressing that as soon as they get information on the objectives and composition of investments, they would be ready for talks. In any case, the Hungarian Trade Promotion Presentation and investment seminar taking place between May 7-10, 1990, in the Kuwait International Hotel, offers certainly good and new opportunities for such talks and decisions, from which all partners will profit.

Budapest Stock Exchange opening soon

THE Hungarian Parliament enacted the law on securities and the stock exchange, thereby removing the legal barrier in the way of transformation of the present experimental stock exchange into a genuine one. However, the existence of the relevant statutes does not mean that the brokers of the Budapest Stock Exchange will immediately handle an enormous turnover, like their colleagues in London or New York. First, the stock exchange infrastructure must be created, brokers must be trained, brokerage firms have to be set up and the companies introduced to the stock exchange.

As it is, the Companies Act and the Transformation Act — both passed last year — make it possible for the present state-owned enterprises to be transformed into share companies, thus opening the way to privatisation.

At the beginning of the eighties the first bonds started to appear. These were so-called communal bonds, meaning that their issue was tied to some kind of public utility projects, like the laying of gas mains or construction of a telephone network.

A few years later — as of 1987 — regular company bonds could be purchased: at first only by other companies, subsequently by private citizens too. Today private persons may sell or buy even shares, which was not possible until 1988.

Currently bonds worth half a billion dollars are owned by firms, banks and private citizens. There are fewer shares on the market but experts predict that in the coming months several new, transformed companies will

appear on the stock exchange, bringing a higher turnover.

There are a few broker firms. One of them — Co-Nexus — is fully Hungarian owned, the rest are joint ventures, the foreign partner being Austrian in the one case, and American, in the other.

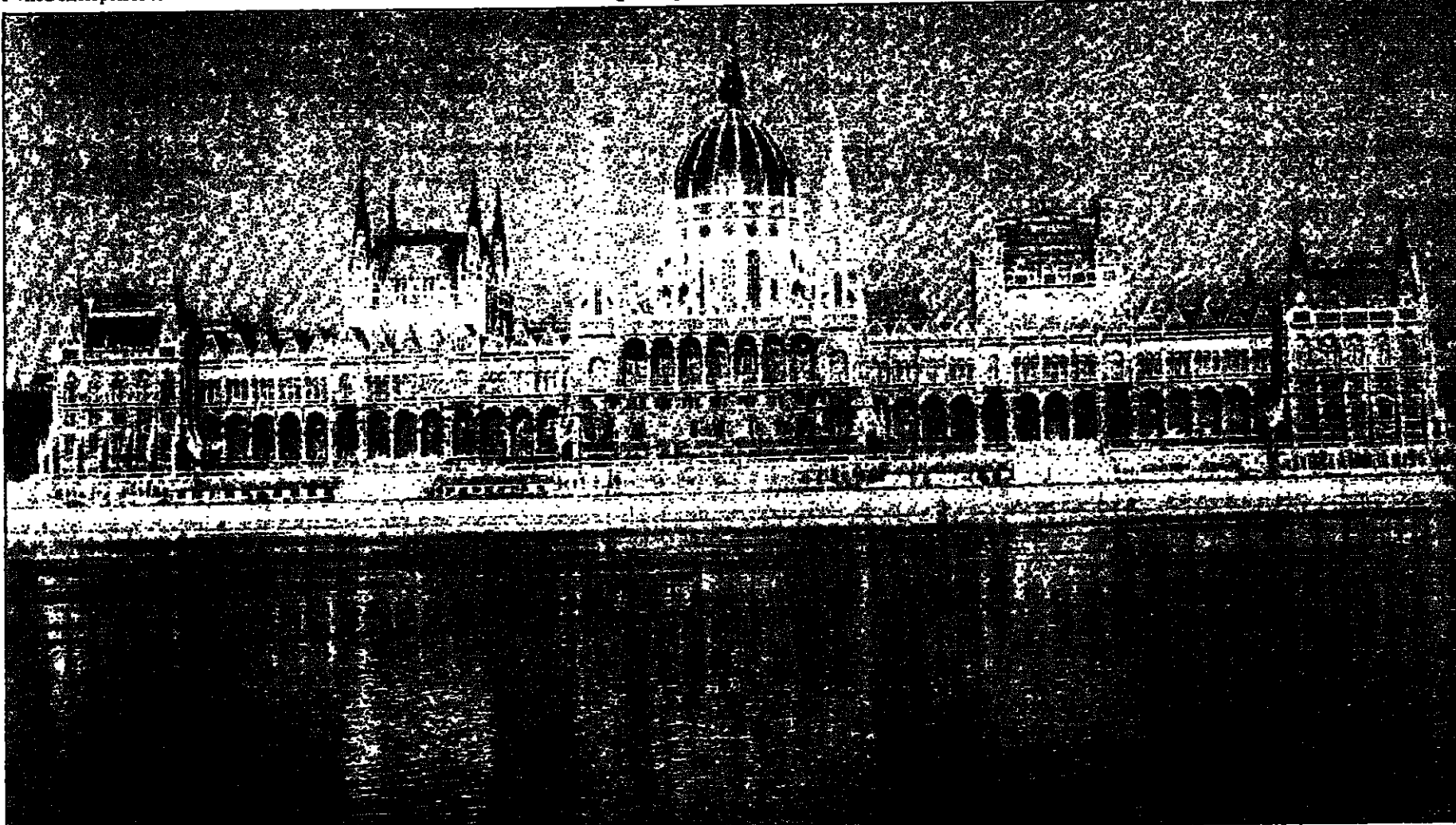
While the Securities Act has enabled Hungarian securities to be issued abroad, these must be first listed at the Budapest Exchange. Specialists are already engaged in floating the shares of a few Hungarian firms both in Budapest and abroad (in the given case: at the Vienna Exchange). The first three firms of this type will be: Ibusz Travel Company Ltd, Novotrade Computer Ltd and Skala Department Stores.

The Hungarian Stock Exchange Act offers the same degree of protection of investors' interests as any Western stock exchange. Before a company limited is listed at the exchange it is required to show a consolidated and audited balance sheet, to issue a prospectus to prospective shareholders, as well as to reveal all information which may be essential for an investor.

For the time being foreign investors may buy and sell only those Hungarian securities that are also quoted abroad; they may not deal at the Hungarian Stock Exchange.

The Hungarian Exchange is autonomous. The owners are the founding members, at present 25 banks and 3 broker firms. Major issues are referred to the General Assembly, while the day-to-day management is entrusted to the securities — Trading Secretariat and the Stock Exchange Council. The address of the secretariat is: c/o Budapest Bank, Deák F. utca. Phone 1181-200; head: E. Ilona Hardy (Ms). Trading days are held currently from 10 to 11 am at the Vaci Street Trade Centre but in the second half of the year they will move to the Budapest Bank Building.

If the first domestic and foreign stock listings are successful and as the forint gradually achieves convertibility, the experts predict an intensive interest from abroad: let's hope, from Kuwait, too. The Hungarian exchange is a developing exchange and so, like its counterparts (in Portugal, Spain and Turkey) it looks forward to a sizeable upswing. The two Hungarian country funds, the second of which was listed in London a few weeks ago, are based on this expectation.



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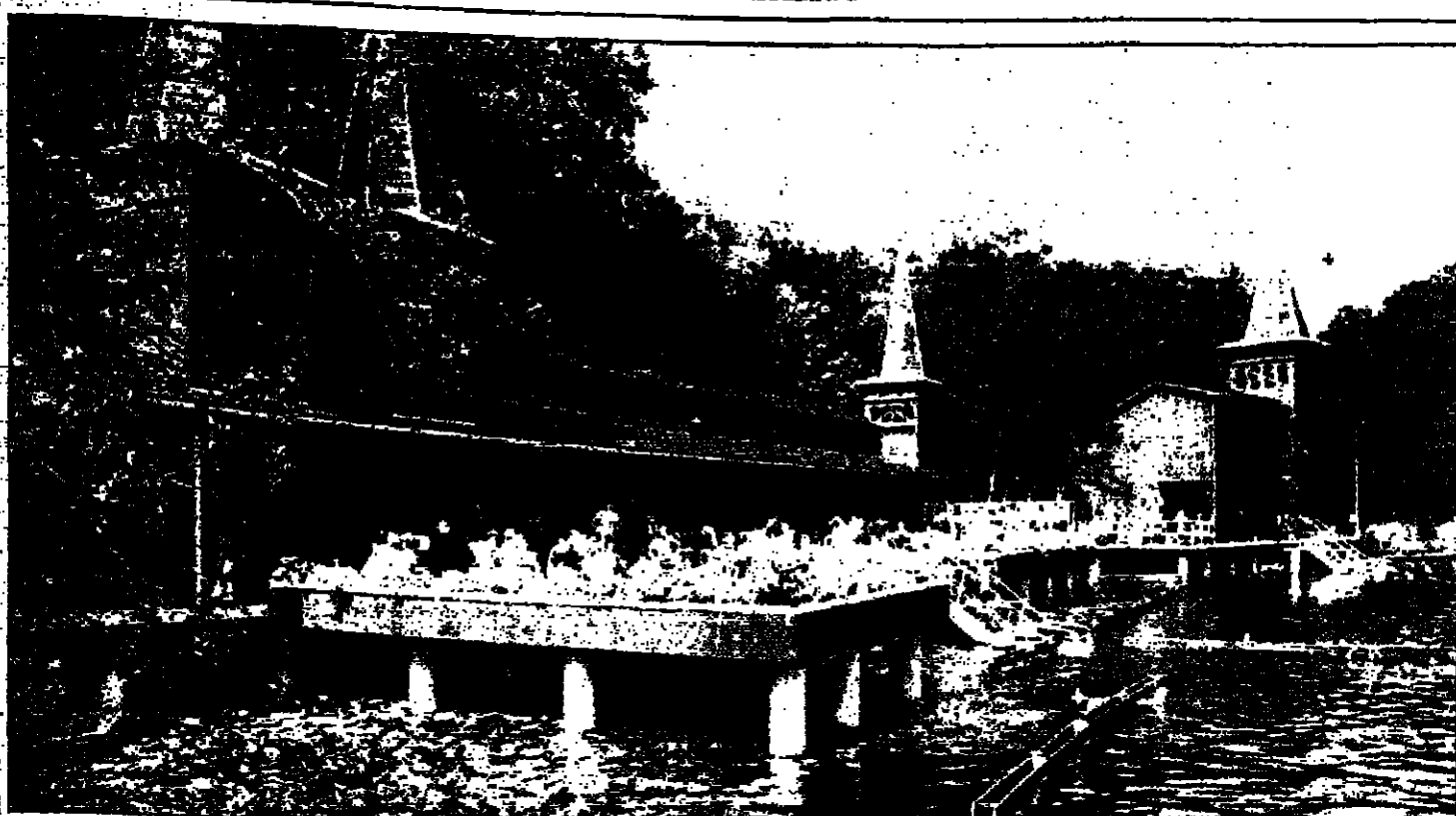
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Investment in Hungary

Foreign equity capital's growing role in economy

THE quiet and not-so-quiet revolutions in 1989 have radically changed the conditions in East-Central Europe. Investors are increasingly turning their attention towards the countries in the stage of transformation. In Hungary, the quiet changeover had started earlier and, in some respects — mainly in the field of economy — it has taken more marked outlines than in the neighbouring East European countries.

In building a market economy, the country is several steps ahead, which is due to the fact that for more than 20 years, since 1968, efforts have been made to reform the rigid economic management operating with central instructions.

The changeover — political and economic alike — has begun. In Hungary a multi-party democracy is in the making and a welfare market economy is being erected.

In this process a two-tier banking system, has been introduced with an expanding network of commercial banks. A Western-type tax system has been implemented. For two years now

the personal income tax and the general turnover tax (VAT) is in operation; in the system of entrepreneurial profit tax each venture is taxed on the same basis.

One of the essential points of the market-building programme relates to the achievement of the full convertibility of the country's currency within a few years. This aim is supported by import liberalization, enabling any foreign and Hungarian entrepreneur to obtain free currencies through the National Bank of Hungary and thus effect imports without restriction. The revision of the legal statutes fostering the ventures is progressing at a great pace, while the state is gradually retreating from direct control of economy. The government's guidance and interference is being restricted to the fiscal and monetary policies. The Stock Exchange is going to be established soon, with full autonomy.

The urgent restructuring of the production and the improvement of competitiveness cannot be achieved without domestic and foreign private investments.

Since the citizens do not have any significant private capital (owing to the system applied formerly), they will hardly be able to engage in any major investments within a short time. They will have an important role, however, in small ventures, while a national bourgeoisie is not likely to develop in Hungary before a couple of years. Accordingly, a decisive role will be assigned to foreign investors.

This explains why, even so far, increasing benefits have been granted to the founders of joint ventures, to those investing active capital in Hungary. In the case of certain activities the new joint ventures enjoy complete tax exemption during several years, and even subsequently they will be entitled to sizeable tax allowances. The licensing of joint ventures has been simplified. Practically, those firms where the foreign stake does not exceed 50 per cent, no permit is required at all; the new venture has to be registered merely with the Registry Court. Foreign investors are entitled to repatriate the profit of their Hungarian ventures in foreign currencies — in propor-

tion to their original investment.

About 1,000 joint ventures are now operating in Hungary, with a foreign investment estimated at a billion dollars. Most of the ventures are, for the time being, small-scale firms with registered capitals between \$10,000 and 100,000. However, renowned investment corporations have made their appearance: at first — understandably — in the banking system.

Well-known foreign firms have invested in manufacturing enterprises. In one of the major deals General Electric has purchased 50 per cent of the shares of world-renowned Tungsram Ltd, Hungary — plus one share, for \$150 million.

Foreign capital is being assimilated at a rapid pace in the Hungarian heavy and light industries, in hotels, in tourist trade and other services. It has started to appear in agriculture, mainly in food processing. All this evolution will be greatly assisted by the privatisation programme in the course of which a great deal of the means of production will be given into private hands.

Spa tourism in Hungary

Health restoration and recreation

Base
CONSIDERING thermal and mineral water resources, Hungary is a world leader. It is proved by geological prospecting that an actual hotwater sea is situated under the country and that high-temperature water can be obtained wherever borings are made on about 70 per cent of the country's territory. The reserves of thermal and hot water are sufficient for several centuries even in the case of a major-scale utilisation.

In Hungary currently some 500 springs supply high-temperature water, of which more than 60 produce rated thermal waters. Some 500 thousand cubic metres of hot water come to the surface daily, of which 50 thousand cubic metres in Budapest.

In addition to the thermal baths of Budapest — including the Gellert, Lukacs, Szechenyi, Kiraly, Rudas, and Rac Baths — the spas in the province attracting most domestic and foreign guests are those to be found at

Acad, Balf, Buk, Debrecen, Gyula, Hajduszoboszlo, Harkany, Heviz, Igal, Mezőkovácsháza, Miskolc-Tapolca, Mosonmagyaróvár, Parádfürdő, Sarvar, and Zalakaros.

History
From ancient times to the present day, thermal waters have been used in Hungary. At Aquincum, in today's 3rd district of Budapest, baths used in Roman times have been excavated; in the Middle Ages bath buildings were attached to the hospitals of several cloisters; the Turkish cult of bathing in the 16th and 17th centuries is witnessed in present-day Budapest by the Kiraly, Rudas and Rac baths. The benevolent effect of baths was discovered again in the 19th century; in 1848 a Hungarian book on balneology was published; in 1867 an act was passed on the criteria of thermal baths, and in 1886 a map of thermal baths was published. In 1934 Budapest was declared a spa city. And so it continues — last year an international body of thermal tour-

ism specialists was holding a meeting in Budapest.

In medical circles there is an increasing number of physicians applying natural therapeutical processes, including the use of thermal waters containing ions which are easily absorbed.

The thermal waters of Hungary have proved to be suitable mainly for the treatment of locomotor disorders, diseases of the digestive system, and gynaecological complaints, with complex therapeutical processes — hydrotherapy, balneotherapy, electrotherapy and mechanotherapy — recommended for the individual. They can be used, moreover, for the restoration of the health of partially handicapped persons, the promotion of recovery from illness, the relaxation of nervous and physical overstraining, and active recreation.

Thermal hotels
Beyond the reasonable utilisation of the endowments of nature with the intention of helping ill people, thermal hotels are also

worth operating for the reason that the stay of guests is longer than average, the rate of utilisation is high, and not dependent on any season.

The Thermal Hotel Heviz (Western Hungary) has been operating since 1976, the Thermal Hotel Margitsziget (Budapest) since 1979, the Thermal Hotel Aqua (Heviz) since 1984, the Thermal Hotel Sarvar (Western Hungary) since 1985, and the Thermal Hotel Buk (Western Hungary) since 1986. In 1990, the Thermal Hotel Helia and the Thermal Hotel Aquincum — both in the framework of joint ventures — will be opened in Budapest.

Besides their natural surroundings, fine architecture, good cuisine, therapeutical and entertainment facilities, these thermal hotels distinguish themselves by having on their staffs physicians and auxiliary health personnel with high qualifications, long practice, and a knowledge of foreign languages.

— Julia St. Nagy



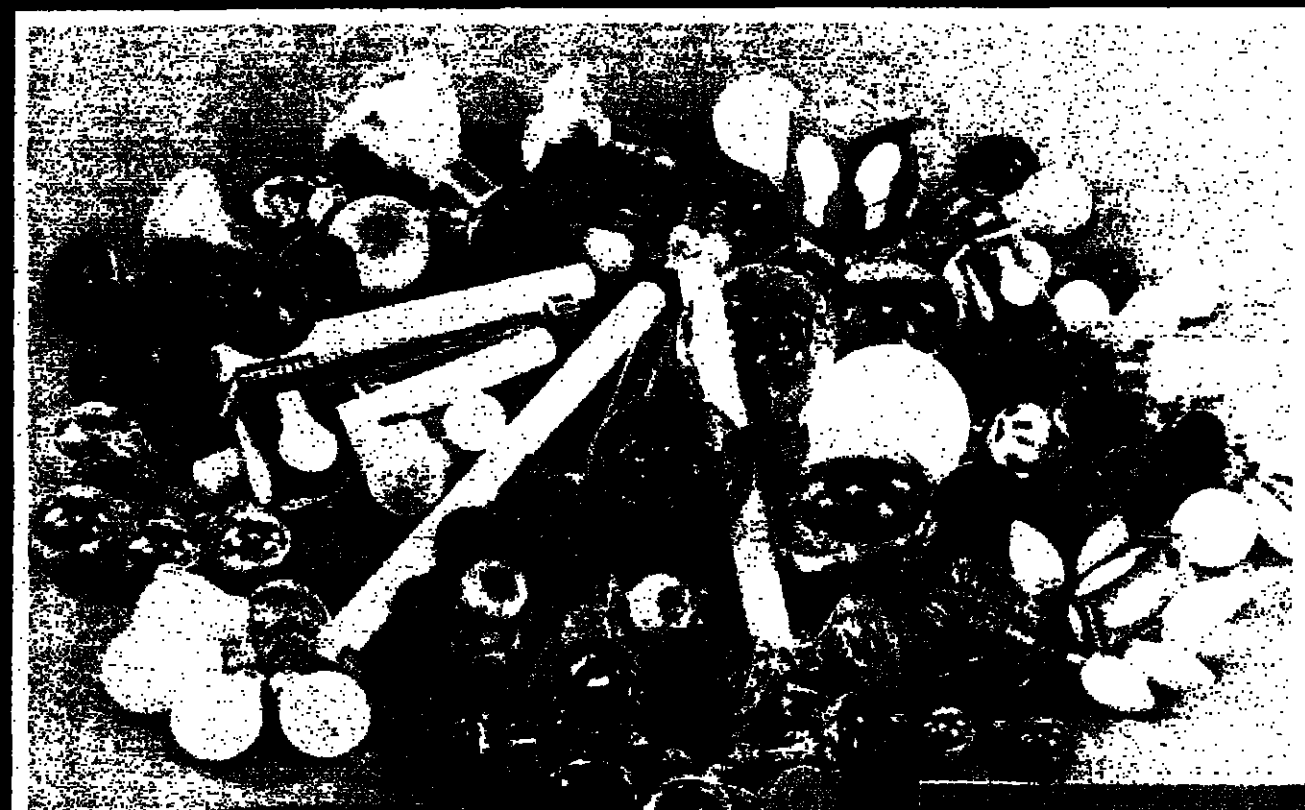
Gellert Thermal Baths and Spa, Budapest.



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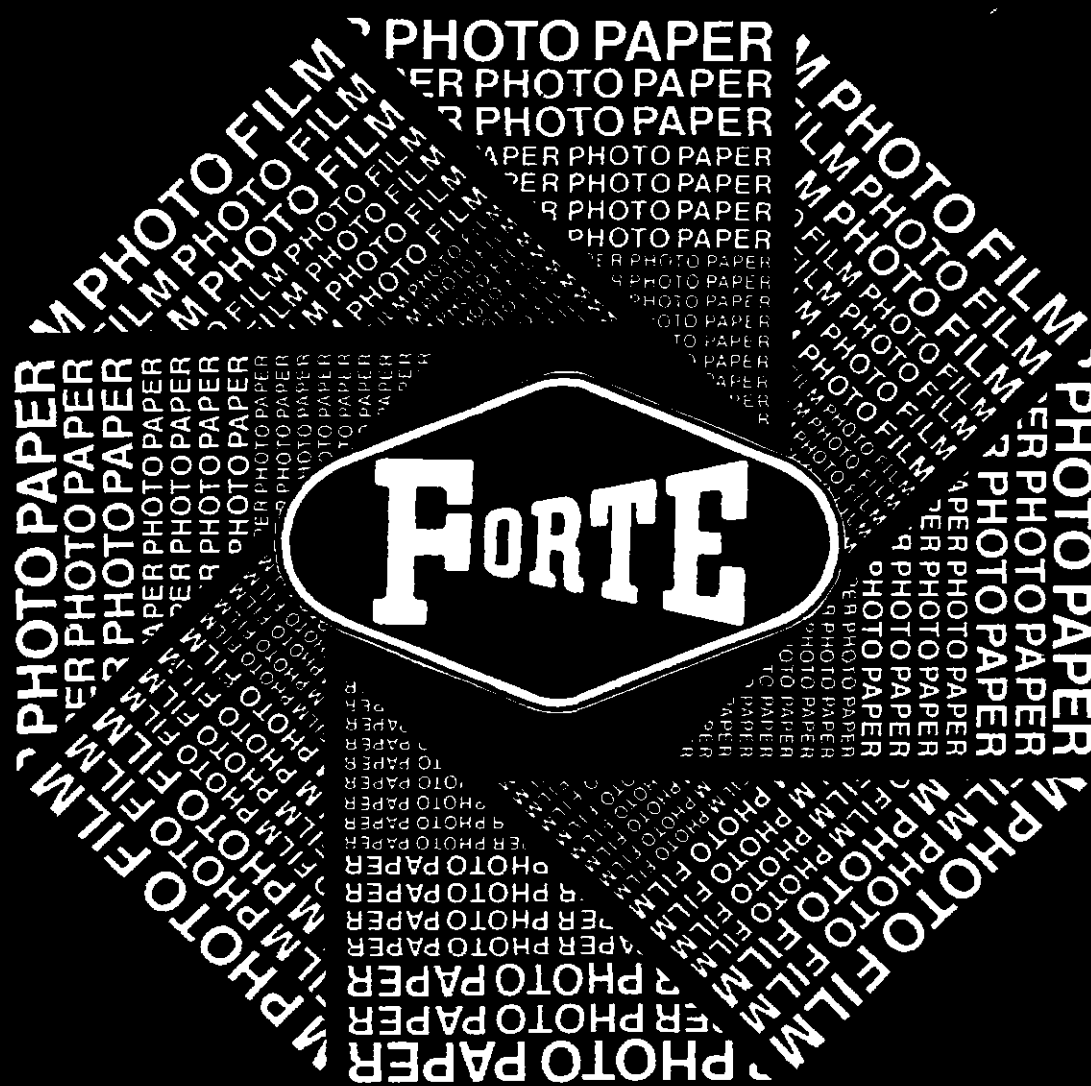
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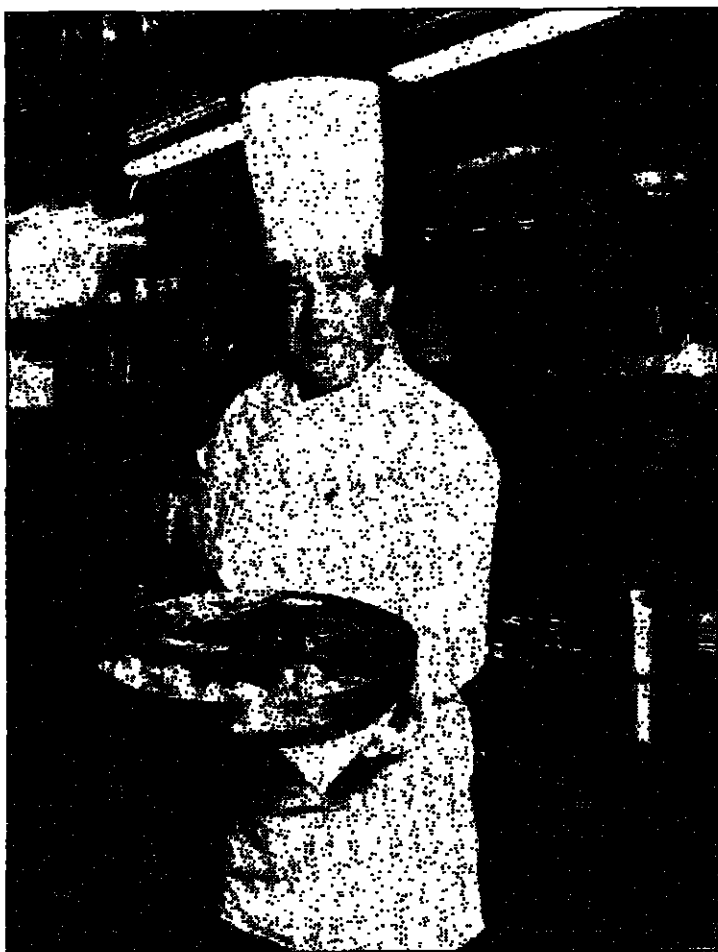
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In Kuwait for Hungarian Food Festival

Top: Mihaly Lakatos and his gypsy orchestra from Budapest's Duna Intercontinental Hotel. Lakatos and his group are now at Kuwait's International Hotel to participate in the Hungarian Food Festival. Gypsy music is a blend of Hungarian folk songs and gypsy melodies; the merry tunes are full of temperament. Right: Josef Foldes, chef de cuisine, Duna Intercontinental Hotel, now at Kuwait's International Hotel for the Hungarian Food Festival.



Hungarian tourism

Scene of historic events

THE Hungarian republic with a system of mixed ownership, an open market economy, moving towards a constitutional state, and the first to pull down the Iron Curtain, the scene of historic events, is drawing great numbers of foreign visitors not only for the above reasons but also for its rich artistic and cultural heritage and its hardworking, warm-hearted people. Last year a total of 24.92 million foreigners (+38.7 per cent) visited Hungary, to convince themselves personally of the truth of the reports of the world media and also of the Hungarian national tourist publicity.

Nearly half of our guests, 12.15 million (+44.6 per cent) came from different hard currency countries, and 12.77 million were from countries with which we use the rouble accounting system.

Tourism's 'foreign affairs'

The Republic of Hungary has more than 30 tourism agreements with different countries all over the world, including that with the USA and the Republic of Korea, both signed last year.

Citizens of Hungary on one hand, and those of Austria, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Germany and Malta, on the other hand, enjoy all the advantages of visa-free travel when visiting each other's country.

One of WTO's most faithful allies Hungarian Tourist Board (HTB) joined the European Travel Commission — as its 24th member — on Jan 1, 1990.

HTB has seven offices abroad, — two of them (in Frankfurt,

West Germany and Vienna, Austria) serving as official Hungarian tourism representations, the other five run jointly by HTB and Ibusz, — and participates in 32 international travel fairs, such as ITB — Berlin, World Travel Market — London, BIT — Milan, Ferie Copenhagen, Tour Gothenburg, Brussels Travel Fair, Jata — Tokyo, sponsoring and managing Hungarian firms on the world tourism market.

Freedom of travel and of enterprise

Since Jan 1, 1988, Hungarian citizens possess a passport valid all over the world, and early 1989 they were granted the right to go abroad with Visa card.

New economic laws and regulations furthering Hungarian reform encourage state-run enterprises to attract domestic and/or foreign venture capital — and even to sell the whole firm, if reasonable, to either Hungarian or foreign entrepreneurs — by transforming their organisation into a more efficient and flexible one (eg. a share company, a limited liability company, etc.).

That's exactly what the Hungarian flagcarrier Malev — planning to replace its Soviet-made aircrafts mostly by Boeings — and the country's biggest travel agency Ibusz are intended to do, both becoming a share company with the participation of foreign venture capital in order to be able to meet the rapidly growing demand as well as their rivals' challenge.

Budapest stock exchange to be reopened very soon will add to the chances of private investors.

Programmes, projects, ideas for 1990-95

1990 — the European Year of Tourism sponsored by the European Economic Community, the year of King Matthias commemorating the 500th anniversary of the death of Hungarian King Matthias Corvin (1443-1490), great European ruler of the period of humanism and renaissance.

The great success of the 1988 Asta (American Society of Travel Agents) World Congress hosted by the Hungarian capital helped persuade Abta (Association of British Travel Agents) officials to hold their 1990 convention in Budapest 4-8 November.

Late summer, early autumn thousands of Formula 1 and motorbike fans are expected to come to Hungaroring (the Hungarian Formula 1 race-track near Budapest) to attend the Hungarian Grand Prix Formula 1 — 12-13 August) and Motorbike World Championship (September) races.

And we all hope they'll be back to Budapest for the opening ceremony of the Budapest-Vienna World Expo '95 entitled "Bridges to the Future" — the first ever world exhibition organised by two countries, Austria and Hungary. Hungarian preparations are co-ordinated by a governmental committee of experts.

World Expo '95 projects are as follows:
● Building of 12,000 new luxury hotel rooms in Budapest and of 10 three- and four-star hotels with a total of 4,500 beds in other regions of the country.



Vaci Street, a pedestrian zone in Budapest.

● Renovation of old castles — there are some 2,000 in Hungary, most built in the 18th or 19th century — so that they can serve as hotels.

In other terms, Hungary is aiming at building up a modern quality tourism — recreation, cultural, congress and incentives, sports and leisure tourism — infrastructure able to meet 21st century demand.

More details on Hungarian tourist investment opportunities will be provided by Ms Julia Sz Nagy, editor-in-chief of Hungarian Tourist Board quarterly "Travel Magazine" in her special paper on the issue to be read in Kuwait International Hotel's Terrace Hall on May 8, 1990.

We've the honour to invite you

to attend this conference as well as the two other addresses on Hungarian tourism industry and on the country's recreation tourism preceding Ms Sz Nagy's speech in the programme of the Hungarian Tourism Day (Kuwait International Hotel's Terrace Hall, May 8, 1990, 10.00 am).

In case you "survive" all those talks, you'll be shown a "recreation" film on Hungary and offered a "curing" cocktail as a "reward."

So see you in Kuwait International Hotel on May 8, at 10.00 am.

Hungarian Tourist Board

Planning your trip to Europe — Hungary

I. Republic of Hungary
Area: 93,030 sq km

Population: 10,585,000 (as of January 1, 1988)
Neighbouring countries: Austria, Czechoslovakia, USSR, Romania, Yugoslavia

Capital: Budapest (2,172,000 inhabitants — as of Jan 1, 1988)

Official language: Hungarian
Currency: forint, 1 forint = 100 fillers
Time zone: GMT + 1

Clocks are set forward one hour in late March and set back one hour in late September.

Climate: Continental with Mediterranean and Atlantic influence

Geography: Hungary occupies the low-lying areas of the Carpathian basin.
Two-thirds of her territory consist of plains.
Highest peak: Kékes (Matra mountain — 1,014 m)

Longest rivers: Danube, Tisza

Largest lakes: Lake Balaton, Lake Fertő, Lake Velence

II. Budapest (the capital), Sopron, Pécs, Szeged, Debrecen

Free literature

HUNGARY — tourist information (general information on Hungary, frontier formalities, transportation, accommodations, restaurants, cultural events, museums, sports, spas, practical advice, useful addresses).

Also available are maps and brochures on Hungary, her regions, cities as well as on spas, castle hotels, hotels and camps, sports, hobbies, museums, music life, Hungarian tourism

statistics.
— Hungarian Travel Magazine: Hungarian Tourist Board quarterly published in English and German especially for those involved in the tourism industry all over the world.
For literatures and further information please contact:
IPV Publishing and Promotion Company for Tourism
Tourism Information Service
H-1149 Budapest, Angol u. 22.
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مكده مزرعي

Turkish premier meets Saddam

BAGHDAD, May 6. (AP): Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut held talks with Iraqi leaders today, amid differences over Baghdad's demand for a guaranteed share of Euphrates river water and Ankara's desire for a hot-pursuit accord to combat Kurdish rebels.

Turkish embassy officials said Akbulut, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday for a three-day visit, met with President Saddam Hussein and discussed "bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern."

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Akbulut delivered a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal to Saddam.

They declined to disclose the contents of the message.

But sources close to the Turkish delegation said Ozal explained why Turkey handed over to Britain metal tubes bound for Iraq that were seized on a truck at the Bulgarian border last week.

It was the third seizure of British-made metal tubes destined for Iraq in recent days. The others occurred in Britain and Greece.

The sources reported that Ozal said in his message that he hoped Iraq would understand Turkey's position in sending back the pipes because of the British allegations.

Readiness

The message also expressed Turkey's readiness to boost its relations with Iraq and reiterated Ankara's efforts to settle a dispute over water from the Euphrates river, the sources said.

Iraqi officials were not available for comment.

Relations between Iraq and Turkey, its northern neighbour, soured in January when the Turks cut off much of the Euphrates flow for a month to fill the reservoir of the huge Attaturk Dam in southeastern Anatolia province.

The 1,460-mile (2,300-kilometres) Euphrates originates in eastern Turkey. It flows through Syria and then Iraq before joining the Tigris River, which also originates in Turkey, to form the Shatt-Al-Arab waterway that runs into the Gulf.

Sources close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported today that disagreements have emerged on the Euphrates issue and border security.

The Iraqis are pressing for an agreement that will fix flow rates for all the states along the Euphrates and want another bilateral treaty on sharing water from the Tigris.

Expatriate

The Turks have balked at that. But they want to renew a 1984 border security agreement which expired last year to give them the right of hot pursuit against Kurdish insurgents waging a savage rebel war in southeastern Turkey.

The Iraqis are also fighting Kurdish separatists in the mountainous northern border region.

Sources close to the talks said today the Iraqis have made it clear to the Turks that they are reluctant to renew the security accord.

PLO renews bid to join WHO

GENEVA, May 6. (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation is to make a new bid to join the World Health Organisation (WHO) with the United States threatening to cut off funds if the PLO is admitted.

The move is likely to overshadow discussion of Aids and other medical issues when the 167-member world health body holds its annual meeting starting tomorrow.

The PLO failed last year in a first attempt to win promotion from observer to full member status and member states promised to look at its application again this year.

But the United States, which provides over a quarter of the WHO's annual budget, has made it clear it will cut off financial contributions if the PLO's bid is successful.

The US mission in Geneva circulated a note reminding journalists and diplomats that Washington was required by law to withhold funding to any United Nations agency "that enhances the status of the PLO, such as accepting it as a full member."

The PLO membership issue is among 33 items on the agenda of the two-week review of the world's health problems by health ministers.

The meeting will hear progress reports on the spread of Aids, nutritional research, disposal of hazardous waste and health assistance to refugees.

The development of a health system in newly-independent Namibia, the WHO's 167th member, is also on the agenda.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima of Japan has tried to persuade the PLO to give up its bid for full membership on the grounds that a US financial cutoff would harm the agency's health efforts world-wide.

The United States puts up the bulk of the money that the WHO spends in efforts to stem the spread of the deadly disease Aids.

Nakajima told reporters recently he had held informal contacts with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his representative in Geneva, Nabil Ramlawi.

"The Palestinians are fully aware of the financial implications," he said.



Flying to see freed Reed

Two friends of John McCarthy, a British journalist held hostage in Lebanon, flew to the United States on Saturday to meet with freed American hostage Frank Reed.

After Reed was released Monday by his pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim captors, he said he had been held for six months with McCarthy and Brian Keenan of Northern Ireland, a teacher at the American University of Beirut.

Keenan's two sisters, Brenda Gilliam and Elaine Spence, flew to Washington on Friday to see Reed.

Christopher Pearson, president of the Friends of John McCarthy, a group pushing for the journalist's release, left for Washington on Saturday. He was followed later by Jill Morrell.

"They want to see Frank Reed face to face, to have a long chat and to feel close to someone who has known John recently," said Joan Williams, an organizer of the group.

Miss Morrell said at London's Heathrow Airport that Reed "is going to know John better than we do now, so he is our lifeline to John."

Miss Morrell criticized the British government for not talking to Iran and Syria about hostages in the Middle East. Reed addressed the press as his wife Jill and son Tank look on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reed recalls horror days

Hostages' reunion

ARLINGTON, Virginia, May 6. (AP): Freed hostage Frank Reed disclosed today that he was held in solitary confinement by his Islamic kidnappers for at least two years.

Reed also said fellow captives John McCarthy and Brian Keenan were kept together and were in good physical condition.

"They've been fortunate. I spent probably two years, 2-1/2 years in solitary confinement while they were fortunate to have the two of them together at all times," Reed said. He said McCarthy and Keenan developed "one of the unique relationships in the history of human relationships."

The 57-year-old educator has said previously he was blindfolded and bound during much of his captivity. Reed's daughter, Marilyn Langston, had disclosed earlier that Reed told her he was badly beaten when he tried to escape.

Reed talked briefly with reporters shortly before he joined other former hostages and their families for a brunch and reunion at a hotel in his Washington suburb.

Reed had said he hoped the gathering would focus international attention on the plight of the remaining six Americans and 10 other Westerners held by Islamic militants in Lebanon.

Reed, who spent 44 months in captivity, revealed details about McCarthy and Keenan for the first time.

"Both of them physically, in terms of muscle development, are probably in the best shape they've ever been in their lives, unlike myself, who kind of in one silent protest, I ended up just exercising by walking," Reed said.

"They have been doing an excessive number of pushups and situps and any kind of exercise at all. In fact, I looked at John the other day and he looked beautiful. I wished I looked like he does," Reed said.

He said they had received "a lot of books, so they're keeping their minds going."

Although Reed said he had been kept for long periods in solitary confinement, he had reported earlier that his kidnappers treated him well during the last six months of his captivity.



Ghannouchi

Nahdha leader accuses Tunisia

ALGIERS, May 6. (Reuters): Exiled Tunisian Islamic leader Rachid Ghannouchi accused the government today of oppressing his movement and said it would be "burned" if it sought a showdown.

Ghannouchi, who went into exile a year ago, said his unrecognized Nahdha (renaissance) Movement did not want confrontation with the government but "if it is imposed on us, those who ignite it will be burned."

In Algiers for a conference on the future of Islam, he also told Reuters in response to written questions he supported a recently formed opposition leftist alliance.

"The political climate in the country, characterized by suffocation and blocked horizons, does not encourage me to return now," Ghannouchi said.

"Arbitrary and unconstitutional laws in the area of general and political freedoms are still on the books, and arbitrariness in applying them to all (opposition) political tendencies is increasing."

Ben Ali has sought to introduce a measure of multi-party democracy since taking power from former President Habib Bourguiba in November 1987.

But the Nahdha and several other small parties are still banned. The recognised parties say the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union continues to squeeze out the opposition.

The Nahdha won 13 per cent of the popular vote in April 1989 general elections and is the main challenger to Ben Ali's rule.

Ghannouchi accused the government of "terrorism and repression" against his group and said it had sought to bar him entry from countries he had visited — Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, France and Algeria.

He said the authorities were in effect holding his family hostage in Tunisia, preventing them from leaving to pressure him into returning home where he could be immobilised.

"My presence abroad has postponed a confrontation with the authorities, and we are anxious to avoid it," Ghannouchi said. "The authorities want me to return, and the proof of this is a ban on the departure of my family."

The Nahdha and the left-of-centre Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) have announced they will boycott June 10 local elections, a change in electoral rules designed to make them more attractive to the opposition.

Ghannouchi did not exclude the possibility that the government would eventually recognise the Nahdha but said current signs were that the government had chosen repression over reason and dialogue.

He said the Nahdha was in contact with other opposition parties including the MDS, the Movement of Popular Unity (MUP) and independent personalities.

"We support the tripartite initiative between the Tunisian Communist Party, the MUP and the MDS and other initiatives which may take place to consolidate a front of society and an effective force to confront authorities."

No US ties: Iran

Setback to Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, May 6. (AP): The radical speaker of Iran's Parliament today denounced the United States as "the enemy of Islam... hated by our people" and ruled out a resumption of diplomatic relations.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mehdi Karrubi as declaring in the 270-seat Majlis, or Parliament: "No one can establish relations with the America."

Members of the radical-dominated Majlis chanted "death to America." Karrubi declared: "As long as America is plotting against the Islamic world and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the issue of negotiations between Iran and the US will never be discussed."

Karrubi's uncompromising remarks echoed anti-US statements by other Iranian leaders, including President Hashemi Rafsanjani and spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in recent days.

'Jihad' broken

CAIRO, May 6. (AP): Authorities have arrested 28 members of the organisation convicted in assassinating president Anwar Sadat for plotting terrorist attacks on police stations, Egypt's top security official said.

This brings to 44 the number of Jihad members arrested in the past two days. A police source who asked not to be named said 16 Jihad members were arrested yesterday in Beni Suif, 75 miles (121 km) south of Cairo as part of a crackdown on Muslim militants.

Interior Minister Abdel-Halim Moussa said the Jihad organisation plotted the attacks in Cairo and Giza, its adjacent province to the north to revenge recent crackdown on its members in southern Egypt.

Moussa, in charge of Egypt's internal security, made the statement in an interview in the state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram.

16 Muslim militants were shot dead and hundreds detained in the southern provinces of Al Minya, Assiut and Fayoum in clashes with police late last month.

Moussa indicated that the 23 who he said included three leaders of the organisations, were the only members of the Jihad group involved in the aborted plot.

The minister did not say where the 28 were arrested but police sources said they were detained in Cairo and Giza.

He said quantities of incendiary bombs, explosives, fire arms and knives were found in their possession when they were arrested Friday.

Two days after Sadat was assassinated October 6, 1981, the organisation launched attacks on police stations in the city of Assiut, 235 miles (380 km) south of Cairo.

Release hopes fade

No bargain on hostages

NICOSIA, May 6. (Reuters): US President George Bush's refusal to bargain after the release of two US hostages has left Iran's moderate leaders in a rage and snuffed out hopes for an early homecoming for 15 other Western hostages in Lebanon.

Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, released in the past two weeks, owe their freedom largely to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who, despite political risks at home, had resolved to end the protracted hostages crisis.

Iran and its ally Hezbollah — believed to be behind hostage-taking although it denies the charge — say the six remaining American hostages could walk free if Washington pressed Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners.

Bush, who has said the United States would not make deals with hostage-takers, has thanked Iran for its role in freeing Polhill and Reed but said Washington would not move towards resuming relations with Tehran until all six were released.

He said he would not mind if Israel freed Arab prisoners.

But Bush stopped short of trying to push Washington's closest ally in the Middle East into the politically painful position of having to swap the Arab prisoners for Western captives alone.

Israel has said any such exchange would have to include three Israeli servicemen held by Hezbollah.

Bush's position has incensed Rafsanjani, who had gambled on quick US concessions to silence radical opponents waiting in the wings to exploit any blunder by the Iranian president.

Rafsanjani's vulnerability became apparent when headline clerics, opposed to any move towards restoring ties with the US expressed their outrage last week when Vice-President Atsollah Mohajerani called for direct talks with Washington to settle bilateral problems.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei defused the tensions by saying there would be no rapprochement with Washington and rebuking the radicals, saying the vice-president had every right to put forward his personal views.

Rafsanjani vented his anger with Washington on Thursday, saying the White House had acted like "a stubborn and spoiled child" and a bully in failing to show goodwill in response to the freeing of Polhill and Reed.

He said the two Americans, each held for more than three years, had been freed on Iran's advice as a humanitarian gesture. The two were freed after two months of shuttle diplomacy between Tehran, Damascus and Beirut by Rafsanjani's brother, Mahmoud.

"Now the United States, instead of properly rewarding this step, has said it would not deal with hostage-takers," Rafsanjani said in a speech.

An Iranian diplomat said Washington's attitude was likely to derail the whole process of releasing the remaining hostages.

"US refusal to press Israel to release the Lebanese prisoners has led to despair among the captors and this is likely to ruin efforts to release the hostages," the diplomat, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

As if to undermine Rafsanjani, Washington immediately after the Americans were freed branded Iran as a sponsor of terrorism and bestowed a medal on the captain of the US cruiser Vincennes which shot down a civilian Iran Air plane over the Gulf in 1988, killing all 290 people on board.

Washington has said these were pre-planned affairs which had nothing to do with the hostages but such explanations do not look convincing in Tehran.

"These American actions can only give more ammunition to the radical camp to blast Rafsanjani," said an Iranian journalist in Tehran.

Hostage-taking has denied Iran's image and acted as a major hurdle in its quest to mend its relations with Western nations.

Iran is in dire need of Western help to rebuild its economy and military after eight years of war with Iraq that was halted by a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988.

Rafsanjani is believed to have sought the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, where 16 Americans, Britons and others are still missing, to encourage a Western response.

He is bitterly opposed by radicals led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi who argue that foreign involvement in Iran will undermine the Islamic revolution and betray the teachings of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary leader.

Karrubi and other Iranian officials have seized on a series of events in Washington since Polhill was freed to whip up anti-American sentiment and accuse Bush of sabotaging efforts to free the hostages.

Two days after Polhill walked to freedom, the US House of Representatives passed a non-binding resolution endorsing a united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.



Boy scout guards

A pro-Iranian Hezbollah boy scout guards posters of Hezbollah martyrs, who were killed during clashes with Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon, during a ceremony held in Beirut's south suburbs yesterday. Hezbollah vowed to continue their struggle against Israel during the ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese expert offers 5-point solution to Arab-Israeli conflict

WASHINGTON, May 6. (Kuna): A Chinese expert on the Arab world says that a five-point Chinese proposal for the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict remains one of the best approaches to this regional conflict.

The Chinese expert, Xiaoxing Han, a member of the China's Institute of West Asian and African Studies and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, made his comment in a study presented to the 15th annual symposium of the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University that ended here yesterday.

Han said the five-point proposal also was "very identical" to the Arab position and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, and the position of the other international powers.

In that proposal, outlined when Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat visited China after the declaration of the Palestinian state, China advocates the idea of an international conference with the participation of all the five permanent members of UN Security Council.

And on the basis of Israel's total withdrawal in exchange for its guaranteed security, China urged the mutual "official recognition" between the State of Palestine and the State of Israel, and the coexistence of the "Arab nationality" and "the Jewish nationality."

In his study, the Chinese expert on the Arab world also defined China's Middle East policy as "mainly geared toward serving its domestic socio-economic needs and preserving its international legislation gains."

"While still conducting its Arab policy in the greater context of the global environment," he said, "China has severed the direct linkage of this policy with that toward the superpowers."

Han said that at present "the Arab world is no longer a part of China's external strategic equation — if strategic is defined in the narrow sense of national security."

"That does not mean, however, necessarily that the value of the Arab world has been reduced in China's view. Quite the opposite. For China's perception of the global strategic environment and its overall policy focus has changed. Militarily strategic perspective is not the top interest that China pursues or that it needs to pursue," he added.

Problematic US-Israeli tension increasing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6. (Reuters): The increasing tension in relations with Washington has deepened Israel's fear it may be losing the US support that has underwritten its economic and military strength.

"We haven't seen evidence any of this money is vulnerable," said a senior diplomat in Tel Aviv. "But in two or three years, who knows?"

Concern emerged before the fall of the Israeli government in March and has grown since. Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's drift to the right is alienating both US officials and American Jews vital for securing US aid.

That aid flows at a level undreamt of by any other country — more than \$650 annually per Israeli. American taxpayers pick up the bill for a third of Israel's military budget.

Warnings

"There is a deterioration of support for Israel," US Senator Robert Dole said in a series of warnings delivered during his visit last month to Israel.

By his estimate Israel is getting closer to \$4 billion than the three billion usually cited — \$1.8 billion in military grants and \$1.2 billion for the civilian budget.

Israeli media were quick to note that other American politicians disagreed with Dole, the Republican Party leader in the Senate, but officials fear his views may reflect a fundamental shift in the once unquestioning US support.

"What he was saying was quite unprecedented," said a senior Western diplomat in Jerusalem, who shared the widespread perception that Dole was speaking indirectly for the Bush administration.

US-Israeli friction has existed almost since President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker took office two years ago and decided to tackle the Middle East conflict.

Baker publicly pressed Shamir to seek peace with the Palestinians who have been in revolt against Israeli rule since December 1988. Shamir dug in his heels and refused in March to accept a US plan for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Although both Israeli and Americans say the current aid level is secure, each divergence of Israeli and US interests increases doubts.

Dole wants to cut aid to major recipients five per cent and redirect it to emerging democracies. Even if he fails, the buying power of the aid is reduced each year by inflation.

Debate on aid falls into two categories — military, which both sides expect will remain strong, and economic, which could face increasing pressure.

Important

Close military ties established during the eight years of Ronald Reagan's presidency are likely to continue, especially as US dependence on imported oil continues to rise.

"If the strategic relationship is important to the United States, to damage it is to shoot yourself in the foot," said Dore Gold, an expert on US-Israeli relations at the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Port calls by US ships to Haifa rose steadily through the 1980s and the United States is considering pre-positioning military equipment in Israel for forces sent to the region.

"I see the strategic relationship as very strong," said Gold. He is much less optimistic about other aid. "The political one is very problematic."

Israelis were angered by a recent article in the American magazine Newsweek that portrayed their living a life of Jacuzzis, expensive cars and foreign travel. Israel's image in America is changing.

Despite slow growth and high inflation, Israelis are not suffering from conditions normally associated with foreign aid. Less aid would mean a lower standard of living, not poverty.

Israel's fears come as it is seeking extra money to settle the flood of Soviet immigrants, who reached more than 10,000 in April.

Israel wants the United States to guarantee loans of \$400 million to house the immigrants but Washington wants proof the money will not be used to settle Soviet Jews on occupied Arab land.

While Washington waits for a new government to provide the assurance, Shamir's interim administration has embarked on more Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

The government crisis was triggered by Shamir's refusal to accept the US proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks. He has not moderated his views and is positioned to remain as prime minister in charge of a right-wing government.

Each shift to the right will provide ammunition to those in Washington who believe Israel's priorities are not the same as the US goal of a calm Middle East.

New restriction Rules on firing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6. (Reuters): Israel's Navy chief has issued new rules on firing at sea after Jordan complained that an Israeli gunboat in the Red Sea opened fire while King Hussein sailed past in his yacht.

Quoting senior naval sources, Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported on Sunday that Rear Admiral Micha Ram ordered naval patrols in the Gulf of Aqaba not to carry out firing exercises when other craft were nearby.

A senior Jordanian official yesterday called the April 28 shooting incident "an act of provocation" and the United States said it was deeply concerned by it.

Jordanian and Israeli officials both said the Israeli boat fired away from the royal yacht.

Haaretz said Amman and Washington were upset because Israel promised there would be no recurrence after a similar incident last October.

INTERNATIONAL/MIDEAST

Christians warned; Shiites fight on

SIDON, May 6, (Agencies): Rival Shiite Muslim forces fought with mortars and machineguns today in south Lebanon, killing one person, security sources said.

They said militants of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal fought for two hours in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

Meanwhile, the Christian Maronite patriarch today warned against preparations by rival Christian forces to resume fighting as Syrian troops disengaged from Muslim militias in the southern suburb of the capital.

Beirut radio quoted Patriarch Nasrallah Sfar as saying in his weekly sermon: "We were told that they (the foe forces) were erecting new positions and fortifications."

Sfar appealed on forces of Christian military leader Gen. Michel Aoun and militia leader Samir Geagea to refrain from engaging in a new battle, saying "what would be the cause of new fighting."

"The people have suffered enough from the lack of water, food and electricity."

The patriarch's warning came as living conditions for more than 500,000 Christians became intolerable, suffering from the lack of electric power, drinking water and fresh food.

A militia sniper shot and wounded an officer loyal to Aoun during sporadic skirmishes among shell-pocked apartment buildings in East Beirut, police said.

The regular troops and the militiamen engaged in overnight limited fighting using rocket-propelled grenades and automatic arms, police said.

The warning by the ranking cleric coincided with media reports that Aoun intended to launch a new large-scale offensive to tighten the noose around Geagea's main stronghold in the waterfront area of Karantina in East Beirut. But Aoun's radio station today quoted the general as denying these reports.

In southern Beirut, still-helmeted Syrian troops and officers staged patrols on streets between manned by rival Shiite gunmen of the Hezbollah and the Amal movement, witnesses said.

Syrian officers supervised the removal of some dirt fortifications by bulldozers, while some Syrian soldiers took new positions between the rivals, the witnesses said.

Muslim security sources said the partial Syrian measure was intended to defuse mounting tension between Amal and Hezbollah, and curb recurring daily violence in the mainly Shiite area.

Iran raps Post report

NICOSIA, May 6, (AP): The official Islamic Republic News Agency said yesterday that a report that it was partially responsible for the death of hundreds of villagers in the border village of Halabja from chemical weapons was "preposterous."

The news agency said the reversal of the position that Iraq was solely responsible for the attack was provoked by US defection over Iran's refusal to consider renewing diplomatic ties severed since 1979.

"The US on being spurned by Iranian officials regarding its deceptive overture of ties, has started revealing its true colours," Iran said.

Iran, monitored in Nicosia, accused the Washington Post newspaper of "stealing to such low levels of yellow journalism" in printing the report Thursday.

The Post report said a US Defense Department study had concluded that Iran also used chemical weapons in the battle for the Kurdish city in the mountainous northern reaches of the Iran-Iraq border. The newspaper said the findings called into question the universal condemnation of Iraq for sole responsibility for the deaths.

Former premier made Afghan VP

ISLAMABAD, May 6, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah named former prime minister Sultan Ali Khatmand today as first Vice-President of his Soviet-backed government, Kabul Radio reported.

The appointment must be approved by Parliament, said the broadcast, monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

World News Roundup

Mideast

Egyptian court releases funds: An Egyptian court released a Lebanese millionaire's assets of nearly \$19 million on Saturday six years after they were frozen in a major bank scandal.

The court of ethics, a special tribunal set up in the 1970s to investigate economic corruption, released 50 million Egyptian pounds (\$18.8 million) in cash and other assets owned by Ali Abdullah Jammal. (Reuters)

Rockets kill 1 in Kabul: Five rockets slammed into the Afghan capital of Kabul on Saturday, killing one person and wounding another three, Radio Kabul reported.

The radio broadcast monitored in Islamabad blamed the attack on "Pakistan-based extremists," presumably referring to US-backed rebel fighters.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP)

2 women killed in Turkey: Separatist rebel Kurds killed two women and wounded a third when they attacked a house in Derik town in the southeastern province of Mardin, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said on Sunday.

It said the rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) raked the house with automatic weapons on Saturday night.

Security sources said the victims were believed to be family members of a PKK rebel who turned informant after being captured by security forces. (Reuters)

Greek ferry sinks: A small Greek passenger ferry sank after colliding with a Liberian-registered container ship at the Cypriot port of Limassol, Lloyd's shipping intelligence said on Sunday. No injuries were reported.

Lloyd's said the Greek vessel, Denise, was manoeuvring to leave the port on Saturday when it struck the bulbous bow of the 9,715 tonne motor container vessel Pioneer, owned by a Bulgarian company. (Reuters)

ACC to boost: Health ministers of the Arab Co-operation Council will meet in Amman on June 18 to discuss ways of establishing Arab joint pharmaceuticals processing company to satisfy the requirements of the four member states.

Jordanian Minister of Health Mohammed Al Zabin said in an interview with Jordanian Al Rai today that the health ministers will discuss preparations to boost health co-operation between their countries in addition to laying a special plan for boosting health affairs among them. (Kuna)

Rare whale shark freed: A team of divers and a member of the Nature Preserve Society in the town of Elilat along the Gulf of Aqaba rescued a giant whale shark that became entangled Saturday in fishing nets, Israel Army radio reported.

"We had to get him out of the net, but you have to remember that this was an 8-metre (26-foot) shark, so it wasn't exactly like taking a fly out of a net," said Roni Zilber, a member of the Nature Preserve Society who helped cut the shark free.

"Since this shark is an endangered species, we are very interested that it continue to swim in the Gulf of Aqaba," he said on army radio, adding it was caught by mistake. (AP)

Algeria arrests glue-sniffers: Algerian police have arrested two teenage glue-sniffers for desecrating tombs of rebels killed during the war of independence against France, the Algerian news agency APS said on Saturday.

The youths, aged 14 to 17, admitted to having destroyed 26 plaques on martyrs' tombs in the eastern province of Oum El Bouaghi. Police said they had been sniffing glue at the time.

A wave of such attacks in eastern and southern Algeria has triggered a public outcry and veterans' groups plan nationwide protest marches next Friday. (Reuters)

Swiss groups condemn: Some 300 protesters gathered in the Swiss capital on Saturday to condemn the way Turkish police broke up May Day workers' demonstrations. Swiss police said the protest, sponsored by a coalition of Swiss and Turkish groups, passed off without incident. (Reuters)

Europe

Italians spend night in open: Many Italian families opted for a night in the open rather than risk being buried in their houses as more shocks rumbled through the earthquake-hit Basilicata region early yesterday.

Police said an elderly man and woman died of heart attacks and up to 30 people were injured.



Pimen buried

Clutching hundreds of slender white candles, singing ancient hymns, and repeatedly bowing and crossing themselves, hundreds of Russian Orthodox believers crowded into a vaulted cathedral on Sunday for the funeral of the church patriarch.

Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox church and patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, died on Thursday of heart failure after a long illness.

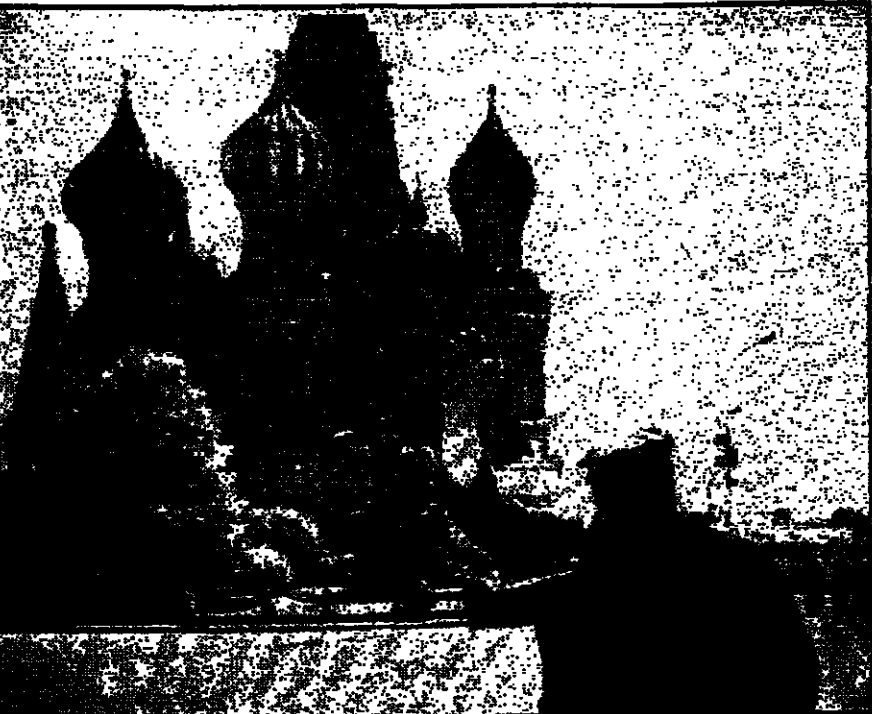
Tass reported. Pimen was later buried.

Denktash talks tough on unity as Turkish-Cypriots vote in local polls

NICOSIA, May 6, (Reuters): Turkish-Cypriots voted in general elections today but their leader Rauf Denktash said the outcome would have no effect on his tough stance in talks on reunifying the island.

The opposition Democratic Struggle Party (DSP), running on an anti-corruption platform, was widely given a good chance of ousting the National Unity Party (NUP), which has ruled breakaway north Cyprus for 14 years.

Asked if defeat for the NUP, which he headed until recently, would change his approach to UN-



Pavarotti waves

Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti waves to reporters as he goes for a walkabout on Moscow's Red Square on Saturday. Pavarotti is in Moscow to give charity concerts for America. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cigarette

US party in deaths

WASHINGTON, May 6, (Kuna): Aggressive efforts by American tobacco companies to increase the market for their own cigarettes abroad are contributing to an increase in smoking in many countries around the world that will cause millions of tobacco-related deaths, American health experts have charged.

Smoking causes an estimated 3 million deaths worldwide each year and will become the leading cause of death in Third World countries during the next decade, according to William Forege, the former director of the centres for disease control, who submitted a new study to Congress yesterday.

Smoking is declining at a rate of one per cent a year in the developed countries while it is increasing 2 per cent per year in developing countries.

"The US effect on world health may be a net negative because of tobacco," Forege said in his study.

on Saturday when as many as 30 tremors measuring up to seven on the 12-point Mercalli scale rocked southern Italy.

They said that in villages worst hit by Saturday's earthquake near its epicentre northeast of Potenza, many people had camped out around fires rather than risk being caught in their homes by another major quake. (Reuters)

IRA shoots British soldier: The Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility yesterday for the fatal shooting of a British soldier in an ambush in Northern Ireland.

The soldier, who was not immediately identified, died from his wounds, police said. Police said the soldier was hit by machine-gun fire Saturday while on foot patrol near Cullyhanna village in South Armagh, two miles (3 km) from the Irish republic border. (AP)

Happy birthday, Karl: It's been a bad year for communists, but there were no tears Saturday as the diminished ranks of the socialist fraternity paid respects to Karl Marx, commemorating his 173 birthday.

Delegations from China, Mongolia and East Germany made a pilgrimage to the London cemetery where the Father of Communism is buried, bringing flowers and their versions of the kinder, gentler communism of the 1990s.

"It (Marxism) is not dead. Mis-interpretation of Marx is dead," said Joachim Mitdank, the East German ambassador. "We have more than ever before to make correct interpretation."

"I wouldn't say a lot of countries are rejecting it," said Mongolian ambassador Ishetsogin Ochidbal. "A lot of countries were applying it in the wrong way."

The delegations took turns placing flowers at the base of the massive bust of Marx, with its inscription: "Workers of all lands unite." The East Germans brought red carnations, the symbol of the German Communist Party, wrapped in the colours of the flag of the German Democratic Republic.

The diplomats approached the towering stone slab in Highgate cemetery and stood in silence, heads bowed. When all had finished, they joined for a group photograph in front of the grave. (UPI)

Soviet nuclear tests harm people: Physicians from Soviet Kazakhstan said Saturday they believed as many as 100,000 people are suffering from radioactivity released by nuclear weapons tests in their republic.

Dr. Saim Balmukan, a professor at the Kazakh Cancer and Radiology Institute at the capital Alma-Ata, told a news conference that the main testing area, the Semy region of the southern republic, has higher than normal rates of still births, congenital defects, cancer, cataracts and vascular problems.

Balmukan and two other Kazakh cancer specialists were in Istanbul to attend a medical conference and seek international support for the Nevada-Semy Group, a new organisation that opposes nuclear testing.

The group is named after the locations in the United States and the Soviet Union where nuclear tests have been performed for more than four decades.

sponsored unity talks with Greek Cypriots, Denktash told journalists: "There is a path that people want to follow and they have shown this in the presidential elections."

Denktash was re-elected president in elections two weeks ago in a campaign focusing on the talks, which his main rival accused him of failing to take seriously.

Denktash has distanced himself from the general election campaign, in which the DSP has emphasised domestic issues such as alleged corruption and economic mismanagement.

Balmukan said Soviet researchers have found that from 1971 to 1985, the average life expectancy of Semy residents declined by three years. (AP)

French seize Spanish trawler: Navy commandos seized a fleeing Spanish trawler and brought it to port yesterday so its crew could be prosecuted for fishing illegally in French waters, authorities said.

Sea patrol aircraft, a navy corvette and a tugboat were used to intercept the "Costa de Irlanda" in the Gulf of Gasconne, about 45 miles (72 km) from the Atlantic coast, Maritime Authorities said in a communiqué.

The boat, with about 12 people on board, was spotted Saturday evening. It arrived early yesterday at the port of La Rochelle.

In 1984, a French gunboat fired on two Spanish trawlers fishing illegally in the Gulf. Eight Spanish fishermen were injured, and the captains of the two boats were fined the equivalent of \$15,000 each. (AP)

Rioter release criticised: Conservative politicians and prison officials Saturday criticised the release of a prisoner who took part in the 25-day siege at Strangeways prison.

Darren Jones, 17, who was awaiting trial on drunk driving and automobile theft charges when the April Fool's day prison riot erupted at the Manchester prison, 200 miles (320 km) northwest of London, was freed Thursday. A British judge sentenced him to eight months on the charges, but released him because he had served long enough.

Jones, the youngest of six inmates who held out until the final day of the siege, was released eight days after he was captured while sleeping by prison officers who had entered the prison.

"Jones should be arrested, charged and held in custody," Conservative Member of Parliament Anthony Beaumont-Dark said in an interview with the Times of London. "It's sheer nonsense to release him onto the streets." (AP)

Asia

Boat people stop in Jakarta: A mysterious group of 51 Cambodian boat people has embarked for Australia following an unexplained visit to a remote national park in Indonesia.

The 55-foot (16.7-metre) motorised vessel, well-stocked with food, spare parts and shopping bags from a Jakarta department store, landed April 30 on the beach at Ujungkulon National Park, where two guards initially mistook the refugees, mostly teenagers, for picknickers, the Jakarta daily, Kompas, reported.

But they spoke a strange language, so the guards investigated, communicating through a 15-year-old in the group who could speak a little English.

The translator said the group sailed for nine days from Cambodia to Indonesia. He did not explain how they acquired the items with telltale markings from Jakarta, 248 miles (400 km) from the national park.

Frightened by the strangers, the guards arranged for them to be towed to sea so they could set off for Australia, their final destination, the newspaper said.

Witnesses told Kompas the passengers, mostly teenagers, met Indonesian fishermen and fished for fish with Indonesian currency and also flashed some US dollars.

The women wore expensive clothes and impressive gold jewellery and one passenger wore a hat from the Ragunan zoo in Jakarta, according to the two security guards at the park.

There were 24 males and 27 females on board, including four baby girls. Most appeared healthy and rested. (UPI)

Africa

Liberian court convicts: A Liberian court found the wife of former defence minister Gray Allison guilty of helping him murder a policeman to obtain blood and human parts for a magic potion, state radio said on Saturday.

Angelina Watta Allison and two men were convicted by a 12-member jury of killing patrolman Melvin Payne in March 1989.

General Allison, once president Samuel Doe's right-hand man, was sentenced to death last August for the same crime. He is still in prison.

The prosecution said Allison wanted to make a "juju" magic potion from human parts to enable him to topple Doe. Belief in juju is common in this West African state and ritual killings are often reported in newspapers. (Reuters)

Student killed in WB clashes

Arabs stage general strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6, (AP): Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian high school student and wounded at least four others during clashes today in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, hospital officials and Arab reports said.

Arabs in the occupied lands, meanwhile, observed a general strike in solidarity with Palestinians being held prisoners in Israeli jails.

According to military figures from May 1, 1986 - Palestinians are currently being detained, of which nearly a thousand are being held without trial.

In the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip, an army patrol came under hail of stones and opened fire at a group of Palestinian high schoolers killing one of them. Arab reporters and hospital officials said.

How arms got to cartel hands

Israeli reveals

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6, (AP): Reserve Col. Yair Klein today said Israeli-made weapons that wound up in the hands of Colombian drug lord had been intended for a training camp set up in Antigua for anti-Noriega Panamanian rebels.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Klein said he went to the Caribbean island nation of Antigua to set up a survival training school but knew nothing of how the arms got to Colombia.

"The school as supposed to train the Panamanians to overthrow (Panamanian dictator Gen. Manuel) Noriega," who was ousted in a US military intervention last December, said Klein.

Israel TV said a document given to Antigua and US authorities by another Israeli, Maurice Sarfaty, linked Klein to the diversion to Colombia of 100 Galil automatic rifles, 100 Uzi submachine guns and an unspecified number of other guns.

The arms reportedly were transferred to a Colombia-bound ship in April 1989 after arriving in Antigua's port.

"That document is forged and has no truth in it," Klein said in the telephone interview.

According to Klein, unnamed Panamanians opposed to Noriega's rule financed the survival school and then demanded a refund when the plans fell through. Klein said he told the Panamanians the money had been turned into weapons which they could get instead.

Klein said Sarfaty had become upset when the plans changed and the Panamanians wanted the arms sent to Panama. He said Sarfaty may have then given authorities a phony document bearing the spearhead emblem of Klein's Hod Mahanit private security firm.

The New York Times identified Sarfaty as a former resident of South Florida and the owner of a farm in Antigua which had been placed in receivership after defaulting on \$1.3 million in US loans. Based on evidence collec-

ted by US and Antiguan officials, the newspaper said the diversion of weapons and ammunition to Colombia was directed by Sarfaty and Klein.

The Times said funds were channelled through the New York branch of the Israeli bank Hapoalim.

A bank spokesman in Jerusalem who demanded anonymity said the bank had no knowledge of Klein or his firm and "we have no information about the transactions mentioned."

Klein said he has no idea how the weapons got to the ranch of drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who was killed in a gun battle with Colombian police in December. Colombian police said they found 232 weapons including shoulder-fired rockets and infrared nightscopes.

"When the boat was on the way the operation (to set up the school) was cancelled and the weapons were then stuck in Antigua," Klein said.

The Panamanians asked the weapons to be brought to Panama. The boat then left for Panama, and somehow it got to Colombia or part of the weapons got to Colombia," said Klein, suggesting that part of the shipment may have reached Panama.

The Israeli Defence Ministry issued a statement today, saying Israel sold weapons only to sovereign nations and then only after checking guarantees about their end use.

"We have no information on how the weapons were passed to private hands in Colombia, weapons that were not sold to Colombia," the statement said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Baruch Bina, promised full Israeli co-operation with Antiguan authorities.

"We will give them all details they want. We will give them full co-operation. We acted according to an official document signed by the minister of national security or defence."

See also Page 4

Libya plans new chem arms plant

German magazine says

BONN, May 6, (Reuters): Libya is planning to build a new chemical weapons plant following a fire at the controversial Rabta Complex in March, the West German magazine Der Spiegel said today.

It quoted Western intelligence sources as saying the secret project at the Sabha military stronghold corresponded "in essential details" to the plant at Rabta, southwest of Tripoli.

Libya has dismissed US and West German allegations that Sabha was built to produce chemical weapons, saying it makes only pharmaceutical products.

Der Spiegel said a confidential report to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's office alleged that at least one West German firm was involved in the new project at Sabha, about 650 km (400 miles) south of Tripoli.

It named the firm as Thyssen and said it was believed to have supplied hydraulic lifts. The company could not be contacted for comment today.

It said the chemicals included sodium fluoride and sodium sulphide, which it said were "pre-products for nerve gases".

"The tanks in which the Libyans want to mix the poisons ... are being dealt with by the firms EMD engineering in Swiss Lugano and the Technoglass ICM in Venice (Italy)," Der Spiegel said. Neither firm was immediately available to comment.

Der Spiegel said the secret service reported that Sabha already had a factory for producing Napalm, an inflammable petroleum jelly used by US forces in the Vietnam war.

They identified the dead youth as Mohammed Khaled Musa, 17, who was struck in the neck and chest. His body was brought to Nasser hospital, but family members snatched it and buried him.

The army confirmed the death but said it was checking the circumstances of the incident.

Musa's death brought to 683 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians during the 29-month-old rebellion against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Forty-three Israelis have also died in the violence.

In the occupied West Bank, serious clashes broke out when some 300 students defied an army curfew in the town of Tulkarm and marched with the outlawed Palestinian flag in solidarity with Palestinian detainees, Arab reports said.

Hospital officials said four students suffered gunshot wounds, including a 17-year-old girl who was hit in the left thigh and was in serious condition.

The army, which had imposed the curfew yesterday, following the shooting death of a Palestinian there, said troops shot four protesters with plastic bullets.

Also today, the body of a 37-year-old Palestinian woman was found strangled alongside a road in her Gaza Strip village and taken to the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, Arab reporters said.

They said the woman was suspected of prostitution. Muslim fundamentalists have slain Palestinian prostitutes and drug dealers as suspected collaborators as part of their campaign to purge them from their society.

A senior Soviet official says President Mikhail Gorbachev will press for easing US restrictions on Soviet Jewish immigration when he meets US President George Bush later this month, a Kuvait daily reported today.

In a dispatch from Moscow, it quoted first Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov as telling Arab ambassadors in the Soviet capital "that 90 per cent of Soviet Jewish emigrants want to live in the United States and not in Israel."

"But the United States deliberately has barred entry to them to force them to go to Israel," Vorontsov was quoted as saying.

He said the issue will be one of the main topics discussed at the summit May 30.

Call to topple Peres

TEL AVIV, May 6, (AP): Former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin called for a change in his Labour Party and said he would topple Shimon Peres and lead the party into the next elections.

In an English-language interview broadcast on Israel Radio yesterday, Rabin also said there were less chances for peace if an extreme right-wing government was established.

"A right-wing government can cause damage to Israel in the fields of the peace process, international relations, in their policies in the territories, the settlements," he said.

Rabin, who advocates reestablishing a Likud-Labour government, said there would only be a chance for peace with a national unity government.

He reiterated, however, that he would only join a coalition with caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir if it gave a positive answer to a US proposal for Israel-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

Rabin cited Peres' failure over the past 13 years to lead Labour to an election victory had warranted a change in party leadership.

"I believe that after a long period and several elections, the time has come to have a soul searching to decide who can lead the party in the next elections with a better chance to win them," he said.

"Prior to the next elections there will be more than one, perhaps more than two, candidates to lead the party and the party will have to decide who can bring the better chances to win ... who has the capability to lead," he said. "I believe that there is a need for change," he added.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait to step up energy ties with Hungary

Joint ventures planned in oil sector

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT is seeking to set up joint ventures in the oil sector with Hungary and use the Eastern European country as a springboard for penetrating the markets of eastern and southern Europe, according to Dr Tibor Toth of the Hungarian Ministry of Trade.

Initially Kuwait will focus on investing in refining and lubricants and fuel oil production with a view to eventually running a network of service stations to sell its Q8 products. Toth told the Arab Times.

Kuwait has made it clear to the Hungarians that although it normally seeks a 100 per cent control over its overseas oil investments it was willing to make an exception in the case of Hungary.

"During their talks in Budapest last March the Kuwaiti delegation led by Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said they would even consent to a minority share," Toth, who heads the GCC department in the Trade Ministry, said.

Toth is in Kuwait with a Hungarian trade delegation, led by Minister of State Zoltan Gombocz, that primarily seeks to attract capital investments to help revive and restructure Hungary's ailing economy.

Toth said that Kuwaitis were proceeding cautiously in their investment plans but the negotia-



Minister of State Zoltan Gombocz addresses the press conference.

tions on joint ventures were also slowed down by the impending leadership changes in Hungary following the elections last March. Hungary, which plans to restructure its oil sector, will decide on the precise course of action only after its new coalition government is installed at the end of this month, Toth said.

Gombocz, who is accompanied by a group of Hungarian oil experts, will hold talks today with Sheikh Ali. He told a news conference it was premature to discuss the joint ventures because the talks to define the exact form of co-operation had only begun.

"We have yet to transform our oil sector and pinpoint areas in

which we can count on Kuwaitis," he said. Toth pointed out that Kuwaitis are keen to base their operation in Hungary from where they would expand not only into Eastern Europe but also to Yugoslavia and Italy.

Gombocz said Hungary, under pressure to repay its \$20 billion external debt and modernise its industry, is forced to seek new markets, for its products and to tap their investment potential. Its traditional Eastern European trading partners, their economies in tatters after political changes that imply a switch from centrally planned to market-oriented economies, no longer provide a ready market for Hun-

garian goods. "Predicting a demise of Comecon, a 40-year-old organisation set up to facilitate trade among the Eastern bloc countries, Gombocz said Hungary had opened its economy to foreign investment while seeking to maintain friendly ties with its Comecon partners.

Underscoring areas that need an injection of foreign capital he cited industry, road and telecommunications networks, machinery and electronics. During its week-long promotion the delegates will discuss investment opportunities in Hungary at a conference on the country's economic status and strategies that begins today.

Merger will broaden prospects

Oil exploration likely to surge

SANAA, May 6 (Reuters): Oil exploration is likely to surge in a united Yemen due to be created this month, mostly in the south where full potential was left largely untapped under socialist rule.

This merger (of North and South Yemen) is not only taking place because of historical links — it will broaden prospects for oil exploration in a wider area. "North Yemeni Oil Minister Ahmed Ali Al Muhanti told Reuters in an interview.

"We hope that after unification, intensified exploration will take place in the southern part of the country... there is greater potential for crude in South Yemen," he added.

Oil is already an important source of income for North Yemen, whose conservative rulers have welcomed exploration by foreign companies. Sanaa became an oil exporter in December 1989, when pumps 180,000 barrels per day (bpd).

But the South, which only last year began to liberalise its Soviet-style economy and political institutions after years of isolation following independence from Britain in 1967, pumps only about 15,000 bpd.

The South Yemen oil industry had until recently been almost exclusively dependent on Soviet expertise.

Some industry analysts estimate South Yemen's reserves at up to 3.75 billion barrels, though there is little data and the potential is difficult to assess.

North Yemen has recoverable reserves of some 500 million barrels, and industry analysts say the country has been almost fully explored.

Muhanti said the North's output would rise by 25,000 bpd by autumn when the Assad Al Kamil

field in the Marib-Jawf Basin comes on stream. Next year the field's output would rise by a further 20,000 bpd.

More oil and gas would be found in both states, he added. One of the most promising areas was a 2,100 square km (810 square mile) border region between Marib in the north and Shabwa in the south.

In March the New Yemen Company for Investment in Oil and Mineral Resources, run by both countries, licensed a foreign consortium to explore the area.

The firms — Hunt and Exxon of the US, the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Corporation, France's CFP-Lot and Soviet firms Machinimport and Zarubezhneft — will drill seven exploratory wells in the area, he said.

The joint development of this field in a previously disputed border region was a major impetus for unity between the two Yemens.

The petroleum ministries of the two countries will merge after political unification, which is to be followed by elections. Sanaa and Aden agreed in November to unite within a year but were widely expected to complete the process by the end of this month.

Muhanti said the united Yemen would spend \$200 million to install new hydrocrackers, power units and storage facilities at Aden's 36-year-old refinery.

Industry sources said the refinery was now operating at 30 per cent of its annual capacity of 160,000 barrels.

"Eventually the new Yemen will have a new

refinery to cater to its needs, but for the time being we will continue to stretch the old ones," the minister said.

North Yemen's Marib refinery produces 10,500 bpd of mainly diesel, fuel oil and gas oil — about a third of the country's needs. Most of the rest is imported from Saudi Arabia and Aden. Industry sources said a 190 km (115 mile) pipeline from Shabwa to Bir Ali export terminal on the Gulf of Aden might start operating this summer.

Commission of the line, to have an eventual capacity of 120,000 bpd, had been put back from April because its Soviet builders had cash flow problems.

Muhanti said North Yemen's crude export earnings jumped to \$560 million in 1989 from around 400 million in 1988. He predicted a 13 per cent rise in 1990 provided world oil prices do not fall sharply.

Aden will spend \$70 million to develop the Assad Al Kamil field discovered by the Yemen Hunt Oil Company — a joint venture with US firms Hunt and Exxon — in the coming year, the minister said.

By mid-1991 the field would be producing up to 8,000 bpd of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Its reserves were an estimated 2.7 trillion cubic feet, as well as 200 million barrels of oil.

A \$28-million LPG bottling plant was to be built at Sanaa by Germany's Mannesmann Anlagenbau Company, meeting the country's cooking gas needs, Muhanti said.

But the project hinged on West Germany providing a promised 50 per cent of the cost.

The plan would have a capacity 135,000 tonnes per year.

NRI Forum

Chairman seeks support for seminar

THE NRI Investors Forum delegation consisting of Abhay Mehta, chairman of the organising committee for the third Gulf NRI seminar, and R.P. Singh, first secretary (commercial), Embassy of India, Kuwait, on a visit to India, have conveyed to the Forum chairman, C.S.S. Khanpuri, that they have received enthusiastic response and support from the ministers and other important officials of the Government of India for the third Gulf NRI seminar to be held in Delhi on July 4, 5, and 6.

It is hoped that the seminar would attract high-level government participation. The full details would be announced after the return of the delegation to Kuwait.

The chairman of the Forum appeals to the Indian community to extend full support for the success of the seminar. He is happy with the large number of initial enquiries being received from the fellow NRIs in Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE and Saudi Arabia. The very satisfactory arrangements already completed by the seminar organising committee, specially the highly subsidised rates for registration, hotel and air-travel, have generated great interest and appreciation amongst the Gulf NRIs.

The registration fee is only KD27/- which covers the cost of conference and all the lunches and other facilities. A family need to pay only one registration fee. The Taj Palace Hotel charges for three nights, including breakfast, are KD37/- (twin-sharing) or KD57/- (single) per person.

The registration can be made with the Kuwait India International Exchange Co. at their Kuwait or Fakhraiah offices. One can also register with Mohammed Merchant at his Shuwaikh office.

The chairman advises that the Forum is printing two memoranda and beautiful souvenirs in Kuwait and Delhi, and requests the community in Kuwait for their contribution to the seminar by contacting Vijay Kapur of New India Insurance Co., who is convenor of the overseas souvenir sub-committee.

The seminar will cover a wide range of subjects of interest to overseas Indians with special emphasis on the requirements and problems of Indians living in the Arabian Gulf, like education.

KD deposit market quiet

KUWAIT, May 6 (Reuters): The Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was once again quiet today, with European markets closed for the weekend, dealers said.

Business took place in short dates, and overnight deal at 8-1/4 per cent, 8-3/8 and later at 8-1/2. Tomorrow/next and spot/next were being quoted around 8-5/8 to 8-3/8.

Fixed rates were inactive, they said, and rates remained generally unchanged.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29256/66 to the dollar.

Capital outflow set to rise

Taiwan to expand foreign investment

By M.C. Bose
Business Editor

TAIWAN is expected to become Asia's fifth major financial centre following the government's decision to introduce international foreign exchange brokerage firms to run the local foreign exchange market.

Two unidentified international foreign exchange brokerages, ranked among the world's top 10, have applied with the Central Bank of China (CBC) to take over local foreign exchange transactions from the state-run "Foreign Exchange Market Development Foundation, CBC officials said. According to the government's plan, the two firms will form a joint venture to run the local foreign exchange markets by the end of the year, probably with local bank group.

With the assistance of two firms, the 48 local foreign exchange banks will have their foreign exchange transactions closely connected with those in global financial markets, the officials said.

This link will give the banks access to international foreign exchange trading network, resulting in the rise of Taipei as a new financial centre in Asia, along with Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney.

In the long-run, this access will allow local banks to expand their markets for foreign exchange trading and inter-bank loans in the US dollar. As a result of these changes, local importers and exporters will enjoy better foreign exchange services for diversifying their investments.

Meanwhile, the government will continue to encourage local manufacturers to invest overseas in order to help boost the nation's foreign trade, the Council for Economic Planning and Development has said.

According to CEPD officials, the government has decided to increase the rate of overseas investment to a level equivalent to 10 per cent of the gross national product, the same as that of Japan.

CEPD sources said, Taiwan businessmen investing in the United States are seeking to establish sales networks or circumvent potential trade barriers,

while those launching joint ventures in Southeast Asia are apparently seeking easy access to national resources and cheap labour. For example, Taiwan's bilateral trade rose by 23 per cent during the same period.

Central Bank officials said long-term capital outflow will grow 30 to 50 per cent from last year's \$7.4 billion. A total of \$12 billion capital outflow is expected during the whole of this year.

The Central Bank Governor Samuel Shieh said capital outflow was estimated about \$3 billion for the first three months of the year.

In the past few years, the island's capital outflow has totalled about \$8.2 billion annually, below the current account balance of \$1.1 billion.

Minister of Economy, Chen Li-An has predicted that Taiwan's trade surplus is likely to shrink from last year's \$13 billion to about \$7 billion this year. Chen's forecast was based on first quarter statistics, which recorded a mere \$1.8 billion trade surplus.

The jobless rate in January dropped to 1.31 per cent, its lowest level since March 1981, but it rose slightly to 1.6 per cent in February, according to official statistics released recently.

In another development Taiwan and Singapore recently linked two bilateral agreements after the first official ministerial meeting to strengthen economic and trade ties.

This is the first time Taiwan has signed an agreement with a country which has no diplomatic relations. The agreement also provides protection for investors and preferential treatment for products imported for trade fairs.

Taiwan is also negotiating with other Southeast Asian countries for similar investment accords to protect investors. The Republic of China is also expected to sign similar agreements with South Africa, South Korea and the European Economic Community.

The two-way trade between Taipei and Singapore has been growing steadily over the years and reached \$2.86 billion last year, an increase of 18.3 per cent with Taipei registering a trade surplus of \$1.08 billion.

Oil consumption continues to grow

Oapec urges Arabs to drill deeper

ABU DHABI, May 6 (Reuters): Arab states should use modern technology to drill deeper to find more oil, a senior official of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec) said.

Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, assistant secretary-general of the 10-nation group, said it was unlikely more major oil reserves would be found relatively near the surface.

"We should resort to advanced technology to reach deep areas; where there are very big hydrocarbon potentials," he told the United Arab Emirates Oil Ministry magazine Petroleum and Industry.

Wattari said most Arab oil wells were drilled no more than 3,000 metres, but added that there had been significant discoveries at depths of around 7,000 metres in Oman, Iraq and Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Oapec's monthly bulletin today said when taking decisions about expanding production capacity, the oil exporting countries assume that world consumption will continue to grow. Thus producers and consumers are linked by a common interest.

The importers want to secure supplies while the exporters want to secure markets. The enormous investments needed to expand production capacity require a comparable increase in consumption to make them economically justified, the monthly bulletin's editorial went on.

However, the prospects for growth in world oil demand are subject to constant revision, which creates doubt about the like likelihood of their being realised. Indications are that some consumers are determined to limit the growth in

their consumption or even reduce consumption if possible, the Kuwait-based Oapec said.

Some countries seized the opportunity to impose new duties and taxes on oil products rather than allow the consumer to benefit from the fall in prices and thus increase his demand. The taxes continued to rise until they were several times higher than the price received by the exporting countries.

While crude oil prices stand at \$16-18 per barrel, the Japanese government, for example, levies taxes totalling \$34 per barrel on oil products, and European governments collect about \$40 per barrel. It is clear from the declared energy policies of major consuming countries that they intend to impose further taxes under the banner of environmental protection.

Since the industrial countries reaped excess of \$300 billion in taxes on oil consumption in 1989, would it not be possible to channel some of this revenue to solving environmental problems rather than imposing additional taxes that will curb demand?

The scale of investments and manpower required to expand the production capacity of Oapec countries is such that these countries must first ascertain the forecast pattern of demand on which to base their investment decisions, so long as no constructive atmosphere of co-operation exists with the consumers, the producers cannot be expected to make investments without any sure signs of profit.

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Singh lashes out at rich nations for resorting to protectionism

US to seek operational improvements in ADF lending

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent
NEW DELHI, May 5, Prospects of an early replenishment of the Asian Development Bank's soft-lending window — the Asian Development Fund (ADF) — appeared bleak as major donor countries led by the United States insisted all negotiations be deferred till at least next year.

In fact, the donors seemed to have reached a consensus at the bank's 23rd annual meeting here that the ADF-six need not be launched before 1992, a full year after the present ADF-five is due to end.

The bank had projected a \$10.4 billion replenishment for ADF-six, a figure that the United States described as "far beyond the realm of what is either realistic or desirable".

US governor and interim George A. Folsom felt the needs had been worked out on the assumption of a fixed share of a growing investment budget for borrowers and did not allow for dynamic changes as a result of successful development.

Folsom said the suggested figure was too large for the traditional borrowers to be economically realistic. He questioned whether these coun-

tries had the capacity to absorb this magnitude of well prepared and implemented projects.

Basically, the United States felt there was no case for beginning negotiations on ADF-six immediately, based on the present availability of resources. Including reserves for foreign exchange variations, the ADF should have sufficient resources to finance its operations during 1991 and well into 1992 Folsom said.

Under this scenario, he said, the life of ADF-five could be extended for one year and negotiations for ADF-six need not be completed till end of 1991, at the earliest.

Folsom also warned that when the negotiations begin, the United States will seek substantive operational and administrative improvements in the bank's ADF lending.

The US also said that since an increase in the bank's ordinary capital resources did not have to be placed until 1993, there was no immediate urgency to begin or conclude negotiations on that.

British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker said Britain would naturally play its part in the

negotiations for replenishment of ADF but considered it vital all the traditional donors should take an active part in the discussions.

Chalker said the bank had fortunately a considerable cushion of commitment authority to tide over the negotiations were not completed by the time envisaged. According to her, a capital increase seemed further away and there could be some value in considering the two resource requirements in parallel. "What is at stake is where the bank should put most of its lending eight in the 1990s," she said.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto hoped the bank's general capital increase and the ADF replenishment would be started at an appropriate time after full study and with the agreement of all the countries concerned.

West Germany, Italy, Sweden and Norway were among the countries which supported the move for early negotiations, along with the two Asian giants, India and China.

For India and China, of special interest is the fact that both have sought access to soft loans from ADF for the first time. India has been

a founder member of the bank but started borrowing from the bank's ordinary capital resources (OCR) only in 1986. China became a member of ADF in 1986, but ADF has suspended lending to it after the suppression of the prodemocracy movement there last year.

The US and other major donors are yet to take a view of India's and China's claims. Some feel that allowing them access to ADF would restrict the flow of concessional aid to the traditional borrowers.

Australia has supported India's and China's claim as has Norway. Governors for both India and China reiterated their claim at the open sessions of the bank's board of governors on Thursday, arguing they needed the concessional resources to finance development programmes and attack the problems of poverty.

Both India and China also spoke out strongly against the bank's decision making being affected by political factors. Peoples Bank of China Governor Li Guixian pointed out that it was clearly stated in the bank's charter that its decision-making should be based on economic considerations alone and not by

political factors.

"The strict adherence to the rules of the bank's charter is the unshirkable duty of the ADF and its members," he said regretting that China's good relationship with the bank had been subjected to undue interference from certain quarters.

India's finance secretary Bimal Jalan, the alternate governor, reminded the bank that its charter enjoined upon it to maintain political neutrality. Political actions in the nature of a policy advice or decisions on access to bank's resources went against the very precepts on which international development institutions had been founded, he said.

In the corridors of the annual meeting which ended here Friday, the United States seemed to be under fire for dragging its feet in the closed door talks about new funding for the ADF. Developing member countries are anxious to see an early start for the next replenishment with as much funds as possible. ADF officials would like to see the new resources voted in time for the next annual meeting in Vancouver.

Delegates said the Japanese appeared to be toying the US line on

the issue, while the US knows full well it can block the negotiations.

Folsom tried to explain his country's position to newsmen saying it would first like to clear its outstanding commitments before taking on new responsibilities. (The US and Japan are the two largest donors to ADF.)

The US is in arrears of \$156 million to ADF and has to clear this year's dues of \$146 million. Further, over the next two years, it is committed to pay up \$425 million to the bank's GCI.

With the bank itself keen on striking a consensus, other donors would be reluctant to go ahead without the US.

In short, the three day meeting of the bank's board of governors ended on an uneventful note, with no decisions on any major issue.

These include the timing and size of replenishment of ADF, access of India and China to ADF, and the resumption of ADF lending to China.

As far as resumption of project lending to China, both the US and Japan are opposed to it. Folsom told reporters yesterday that this was an

issue that had to be decided at higher levels among the Group of Seven.

The US is also yet to take a position on the eligibility of India and China for soft loans from ADF. But it is clear that the two countries will not get any lending from ADF-five because India had not put up any claim when the last replenishment was negotiated while China was not even a member of the ADF then.

The meeting was inaugurated Wednesday by Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh who lashed out at the industrialised countries for resorting to protectionism and for reducing the flow of resources to the poor nations just when they needed them most.

Singh said many developing countries were opening up their economies and trying to integrate them into the world trading system. To support these trends they needed greater financial flows and an open trading system. "But the world has a long way to go in this area," he said.

The Indian leader said the need of the developing countries for development finance was very large, and a substantial portion of these funds must come on concessional terms. Multi-lateral institutions, including

the ADB, must play a major role in stepping up the net flow of resources to the developing countries, he said.

Singh said the Asian region had actively participated in the expansion of world trade and benefited from it. All countries in the region had a powerful stake in the preservation of an open trading system. He said, regretting the growing tendency to think in terms of exclusive trading blocs.

Singh was joined in his plea by Finance Minister Madhu Dandavath, who is the chairman of the ADB board of governors.

ADB President Kimura Tamuzi, in his opening address, wanted the bank to advance in three broad directions: alleviating poverty, promoting the development of the private sector and creating a policy framework with developing members, enabling the bank to contribute more effectively to their economic adjustment.

Making an eloquent plea for the poor, Tamuzi promised to do his best to strengthen the bank's role in promoting social and economic progress.

Jordan to get Saudi Arabian aid

AMMAN, May 6, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, one of Jordan's main Arab financial backers, has agreed to give Amman \$200 million in badly needed aid, diplomats said today.

They said King Fahd promised the aid to King Hussein during brief talks the two men had late last month when the Jordanian monarch performed a minor pilgrimage to the Muslim holy sites of Makkah and Medina.

Amman received the same amount from Riyadh last year.

Jordan, struggling under a foreign debt load of \$8 billion, has budgeted \$360 million in Arab aid in 1990. For 10 years ending in 1988 Saudi Arabia gave Jordan \$360 million a year after a 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad pledged support for Arab states on the frontlines with Israel.

Jordanian officials refused to comment on the Saudi aid pledge but said Amman had so far received only 6.5 per cent of the budgeted aid for 1990.

"As a government, we are not a crisis but we are very tight in budget," a senior Jordanian official told Reuters. "We are reducing our expenditures," he added.

Foreign exchange margin trading

GULF BANK management announced yesterday the introduction of Foreign Exchange Margin Trading Service.

They indicated that the new service is designed to allocate Foreign Exchange trading lines against a margin of up to 25 per cent of the transaction value. The margin will be deposited in an interest bearing account with the Gulf Bank. A \$500,000 trading line requires a maximum margin of \$125,000. A very attractive deal where a customer deposits a margin amount of up to \$125,000 for a trading line of \$500,000. Customers don't need to risk 100 per cent of their money to facilitate this service.

Commenting on the new service, Gulf Bank Management said, "customers with on-going requirements for foreign exchange can trade forward purchases or sales of foreign exchange by telephone, telex or telefax for their accounts, confirmed by a letter."

"Foreign Exchange Margin Trading is available in US dollars, Deutsche marks, Japanese yen, pounds sterling, Swiss francs, French francs, Dutch guilders and Australian dollars, but excluding Kuwaiti dinars," Gulf Bank management noted.

"A minimum trading line of \$500,000 with a minimum transaction of \$50,000 will be required. Additionally, the service will be provided without any charges to customers," they added.

Japanese bank branch in India

NEW DELHI, May 6: Encouraged by the policy of liberalisation followed by the Government of India, the Japanese Sanwa Bank is opening a branch here by November this year.

The bank will be looking for a specialised nature of wholesale business in India. It will continue to assist Indian clients through its merchant banking subsidiary in Hong Kong to meet their off-shore financial requirements, said Michihiro Shinohara, a general manager of the bank.

The Sanwa Bank will be the third Japanese bank to open a branch in India. The Bank of Tokyo already has branches in Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta, and the Bank of Mitsui has a branch in Bombay.

Shinohara said the Japanese view India as a market and many Japanese companies are willing to do business with India.

Further price rises imposed Egypt hikes prices of fuel by up to 33.3pc

CAIRO, Egypt, May 6, (Agencies): The government today hiked the price of gasoline and other kinds of fuel by up to 33.3 per cent, another step in its continued efforts to reduce the \$1.3 billion subsidy system.

The new prices which were effective midnight Saturday were the first since increases of fuel prices since hikes of between 22 and 40 per cent in April 1989.

Egypt has a \$50 billion foreign debt. It has recently been discussing with the International Monetary Fund rescheduling part of its foreign debt to help open the way for further loans.

The IMF's demands include decreasing the subsidy system, a unified exchange rate for the Egyptian pound which would mean its devaluation and increasing the interest rate in banks.

The price of the top-grade

gasoline was hiked by 15 piasters (five cents) to 55 piasters (20 cents) per litre. A litre, or one-fourth gallon, of second grade gasoline was also increased from 40 piasters (15 cents) to 50 piasters (18 cents).

The price of kerosene was increased by 3 piasters (1 cent) per litre to 10 piasters (3.7 cents). Kerosene is widely used as cooking fuel by low-income city residents as well as peasants in the countryside.

And the price of piped natural gas was hiked by 1.3 piasters (.5 cents) per cubic metre to 4.7 piasters (1.7 cents). The piped natural gas is used for cooking and heating in middle and high income suburbs in Cairo.

Earlier this week, the price of a cylinder of natural gas was increased by 85 piasters (31 cents) to 150 piasters (56 cents), a 130 per cent hike.

In his May Day speech, President Hosni Mubarak stressed that the 3.6 billion Egyptian pound (\$1.3 billion) subsidy system of energy, food and other basic commodities had to be phased out.

"So that things become clear to you, every increase in the population means an increase in consumption and the subsidies will grow until we consume the country's budget and there will come a time when we do not find money for anything at all," Mubarak said in his nationally broadcast speech.

"The government cannot keep up the subsidy with the increase in population and consumption," he said.

Egypt's 55 million grow by nearly three per cent annually, a high growth rate by world standards.

Moscow won't use shock therapy on economy

MOSCOW, May 6, (AP): Fears of unemployment, inflation and falling political support are forcing Soviet leaders to back away from radical Polish-style economic reforms in favour of changes in easier stages.

"Shock therapy is out of the question," Alexander Yakovlev told Western and Soviet reporters yesterday. "It would be politically short-sighted and practically impossible."

"We have to create some sort of cushion or pillow," said Yakovlev, a top aide to President Mikhail S. Gorbachev. "It should go in steps."

In a separate newspaper interview, he said radical reforms could force 10 million people out of work "if we went ahead mindlessly."

The newly created presidential council, Gorbachev's main advisory group, is reviewing a proposed reform package to make sure it does not send inflation through the roof.

Yakovlev said, however, that prices must rise enough to sop up an estimated 500 billion rubles (\$825 billion at the official exchange rate) Soviet citizens have stashed because there are few consumer goods to buy.

It was unclear how many changes the leadership would make in the 17-point reform programme, part of which was leaked in March. Among the provisions were laws and executive orders to sell some government enterprises, allow stock transactions and turn the ruble into a convertible currency.

Gorbachev called in March for a "normal, full-fledged market," and has said a new reform package would be announced at a session of the Supreme Soviet parliament that begins May 14.

During a recent trip to Sverdlovsk in the Ural mountains, Gorbachev encountered citizen arguments that the economy had worsened and further reforms would plunge it into an abyss.

Speakers and demonstrators at the May Day parade on Tuesday in Moscow also expressed serious concerns over the effects of proposed reforms.

Despite all this, the Communist Party's radical wing appears to be gaining strength on a platform of speedier reform. Yakovlev told the newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets: "Generally, in the course of this year, we must prepare conditions for a market economy."

In December, Kremlin leaders balked at radical economic reforms proposed by Deputy Premier Leonid Abalkin.

Since then, they have witnessed success in neighbouring Poland. The Solidarity government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki raised prices in stages over six months, then went to a free market at the new year.

Despite initial shocks, production of consumer goods appears to have increased, the currency has stabilised and Solidarity has stayed in power.

In Moscow, Stanislav Shatalin of the presidential council said: "The USSR is not Poland. We are not one nation, united under one church and the colossal authority of the Pope in Rome."

The Soviet Union consists of 15 republics whose economic conditions range from relative well-being in Europe to widespread poverty and unemployment in central Asia.

Unlike Poland, "our government does not have a credit of trust, and so forth," said Shatalin, an economist for the council created in March.

Workers begin hunger strike

SEOUL, South Korea, May 6, (AP): Dozens of militant workers holding out atop a huge crane at the world's largest shipyard announced today they were beginning a hunger strike to press their demand for the release of jailed union leaders, news reports said.

Otherwise, labour unrest around the country had subsided, with no serious protests reported today.

In Ulsan, a port city 320 kilometres (200 miles) southeast of Seoul, officials of the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. shipyard said they were ready to negotiate to end the protest but workers atop the crane insisted that the company accept their demands first, the reports said.

The estimated 50 to 100 workers threw down instant noodles and drinking water sent up by a Christian minister Saturday and said they would launch a hunger strike, the reports said.

The minister, Lee Jong-Yoon, volunteered to mediate after finding that some of his church members were among the workers holding out on the 83-metre (270-foot) crane for the ninth day, they said.

Nineteen workers, saying they were sick, came down from the crane on Saturday and were arrested. Police expected more workers to come down in a day or two.

Police denied that they were planning a raid to end the protest, although anti-terrorist teams and two helicopters were standing by at the shipyard.

Police spread nets and air mattresses around the base of the crane to prevent suicides. The workers threatened to take "extreme action" unless their demands were accepted.

Exchange's reputation at stake Trial of futures traders

CHICAGO, May 6, (Reuters): The trial begins on Tuesday of three traders charged with defrauding customers of the world's two largest futures exchanges, and observers say the credibility of the industry and of US government investigators is at stake.

In the trial of the three Swiss-France traders, government prosecutors are expected to present tape-recordings and testimony from an undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent who posed as a crooked trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Expected to last at least three weeks, the trial should help determine whether the government can widen its investigation of alleged corruption at the mercantile exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade, attorneys and industry officials said.

Two former traders who have already pleaded guilty to engaging in what prosecutors term an ongoing scheme to cheat customers are expected to testify against their power colleagues. They will be sentenced after the trials.

This trial will set the stage for larger trials scheduled for September for 16 Japanese yen futures traders and 13 soybean traders. Besides the two Swiss-France traders, 13 others from the Merc and the Chicago Board of Trade have pleaded guilty and some will testify.

The trial will also serve as a measure of the justice

department's stated determination to root out white-collar criminals in US financial arenas. Other inquiries netted Wall Street giants such as financier Ivan Boesky and "junk bond" King Michael Milken.

"What we're talking about in Chicago doesn't begin to compare with the millions made by insider traders like Ivan Boesky in New York," said John Damgard, president of the Futures Industry Association, a Washington trade organisation.

On trial on Tuesday is broker Robert Moskby, portrayed in a government filing as the ringleader of a five-man conspiracy comprising brokers and those trading for themselves.

They allegedly skimmed thousands of dollars from outside customers and illegally pre-arranged trades, paying kickbacks to each other for past trading favours.

Moskby faces 28 counts of mail and wire fraud, 51 felony counts of violating commodity trading laws, and one count of racketeering. Each charge carries a stiff prison term and a fine of up to \$250,000, along with an undetermined amount of cash restitution to defrauded customers.

Two independent traders, Danny Scheck and David Zaltz, are charged with several counts of fraud and trading violations.

Dubai's re-exports to Iran surge

ABU DHABI, May 6, (Reuters): Re-exports from the Gulf entrapment of Dubai to Iran more than doubled in 1989, benefiting from the end of the Gulf war and Tehran's poor relations with the West.

Official Dubai statistics show re-exports, hauled mostly by traditional wooden dhows to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, soared to 1.57 billion dirhams (\$428 million) last year from 691 million (\$188 million) in 1988.

"The increase was mainly due to the end of the Gulf war (in August 1988), Iran's problems with the West and an easing of restrictions on imports," a Dubai-based trader said today.

Islamic Iran's ties with the West are strained over Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in

Lebanon and a death order by Tehran against British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy.

Traders said Iran preferred to import some industry spare parts, cars, foodstuffs and household appliances through Dubai, the Gulf's major trading port, rather than directly from Western states.

The emirate of Dubai, part of the United Arab Emirates, had close ties to Iran throughout the eight-year Gulf war. Many of Dubai's merchants are of Iranian background.

Foodstuffs topped Iran's imports from Dubai at 494 million dirhams last year (\$134 million), followed by manufactured goods at 387 million (\$105.5 million) and machinery and equipment at 309 million (\$84 million).

that represents the IMF's developing nations voiced its concern that the IMF's capital increase would not be sufficient to meet their needs.

The G-24 also wants relief on debt to official creditors extended to middle-income countries. Currently, the industrial nations are granting such relief only to the poorest countries, especially in Africa.

A decision on the IMF capital could be announced Monday or Tuesday, Camdessus said. The decision would then be submitted to the national governments for approval, a process that can take from nine months to two years, he added.

Two years ago, Camdessus asked for a 100 per cent increase in the IMF capital to strengthen its help to developing countries, support economic reforms in East Europe, and maintain its role as the "central bank of the world's central banks" — the lender of last resort "even for the industrialised countries."

According to the US Treasury, "there is consensus" that Japan should move from

IMF expects to get a large capital increase

WASHINGTON, May 6, (UPI): The International Monetary Fund expects its member nations to increase by 50 per cent to 70 per cent the institution's current \$120 billion capital, the IMF's managing director said yesterday.

Michel Camdessus told a news conference that he expects agreement on an increase "within a narrow band, between significant and rather substantial," meaning between 50 per cent and 70 per cent, in the IMF's capital.

The IMF's capital consists of contributions and pledges from nation members. In return, those members get a proportional voice in the fund's policy making.

"I am reasonably certain that the IMF will be consolidated and significantly reinforced in its role as the central pillar of international financial co-operation" after a series of meetings today and tomorrow, Camdessus said.

Camdessus voiced confidence that a dispute between Britain and France about their respective quotas in the IMF capital would soon be solved.

being the fifth-largest IMF shareholder, perhaps sharing the No. 2 position with West Germany, now the No. 3 shareholder.

The United States is the largest shareholder in the IMF. Voting rights are based on the size of a nation's ranking as a shareholder.

But, No. 2 Britain and No. 4 France were at loggerheads about which nations should occupy the No. 4 and 5 shareholder slots if Japan were to move up, or whether the two countries should jointly hold the No. 4 position.

Camdessus expressed confidence that the disagreement between the French and the British would soon be solved, "if it has not been solved already."

British and French officials at the IMF could not be reached for comment.

The increase in the IMF capital will be linked to a "strengthening" of the strategy to deal with the 11 countries with \$4 billion in arrears on loan repayments to the fund, Camdessus said.

Move to reform trading system Political push vital step

NAPA, California, May 6, (Reuters): Reform of the world's trading system now depends on the leaders of the developed world showing the political will, but they will have to make big compromises, trade officials say.

Senior ministers of four trading powers — the United States, the European Community, Japan and Canada — met here last week said the technical decisions for reform had mostly been taken.

The political decisions, they hope, will come when the leaders of the world's top seven industrial democracies meet in Houston, Texas, on July 7-11.

"We certainly look for a political push by the heads of state assembled," said US Trade Representative Carla Hills.

The ministers here tried to chart a common course for negotiators at the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), who want to complete liberalisation moves by the end of this year.

But officials say the national leaders, if they are to give the negotiators the elbow room they need at a critical GATT session set for Geneva on July 23, will have to row back on some of their current positions.

GATT's 97 members want to cut farm subsidies that distort trade, write tighter rules to end the piracy of patents and copyrights and bring under global regulations the growing trade in such services as finance and insurance.

The ministers here want the seven leaders to reach the necessary compromises in Houston and order their GATT negotiators in Geneva to stop bickering and reach terms on a new agreement.

The so-called G-7 — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — meets annually to take up global economic problems.

Political decisions at head of government level are needed in several key GATT areas, trade officials said, with farm subsidies at the top.

The United States has agreed to steady scale-backs in farm export subsidies until they are phased out, but while the EC has agreed to reduce them, it has balked at their total elimination.

Officials say a compromise on farm subsidies is needed for a GATT reform to be successful. The two sides have been inching toward compromise recently, but a decision will have to be taken by President George Bush and the realignment EC, chiefly West Germany.

The officials are also looking for compromises in textiles, where industrial nations want to open their markets slowly but developing nations, many of which depend on exports of cloth and clothing, seek a quick end to the current quotas.

US and EC officials say the industrial nations might be prepared to make concessions on textiles in return for Third World agreement to end restrictions on services.

A US official said the political direction from the G-7 leaders would need to be finely tuned.

Debt agreement signed

SAN JOSE, May 6, (Reuters): The Costa Rican government and international bankers signed a historic agreement yesterday which allows Costa Rica to buy back 64 per cent of its \$1.8 billion commercial debt at 16 cents on the dollar.

"It's a very historic agreement from the point of view of Costa Rica," Gerald Corrigan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, told Reuters.

Under the agreement, Costa Rica will pay \$184.3 million for \$1,152 million of commercial debt plus \$69 million in interest payments.

The agreement will reduce the unwieldy \$4 billion foreign debt to a more manageable \$2.8 billion.

Costa Rica is also committed to exchanging at least \$100 million of its remaining \$530 million commercial debt in debt-for-equity swaps over the next five years.

"It's one of the more creative, innovative programmes we've been able to put together so far," Corrigan said.

Costa Rican Central Bank president Eduardo Lizaso said his government has collected "almost all" the \$253 million it must pay before a May 21 deadline.

The US Agency for International Development (AID) will donate between \$30 and \$35 million for the purchase. Other lenders include Holland, Taiwan, Mexico and Venezuela.

Jim Jardine of Bank of America, the chairman of the bank advisory committee, told Reuters Costa Rica reached an agreement with the bankers because its economic development and reform programme in recent years have been "unique."

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4 bedrooms
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Children's garden

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Salmiya

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bedrooms
1 bedroom and a hall on
the roof

Salmiya

2 bedrooms + 2
bedrooms
1 bedroom and a hall on
the roof

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May 1990

Colourful and lively display ends India Festival



A section of the large audience.



Kathakali dancer from the state of Kerala.



The contingent from the state of Gujarat.



Sikh contingent from the Punjab.

Pictures by Ahmed Emad

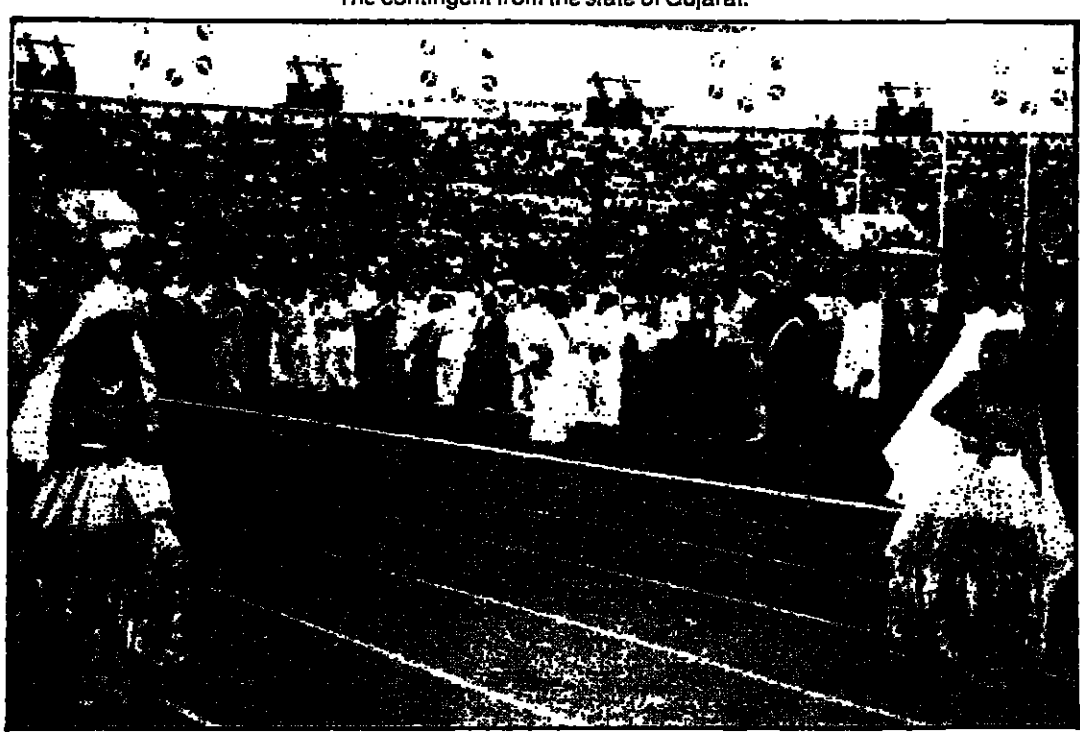
INDIANS in Kuwait concluded their first major festival Friday at the Friendship and Peace Stadium (Kazma) with a spectacular display of its multifarious states in all its splendour. 4,000 local Indians participated in various pageants drawn from all the states of India to provide entertainment to over 20,000 spectators.

Indian Ambassador Arun Kumar Buddhiraja in his opening speech congratulated the community for unifying in spite of its diversity to put up the 10 day India Festival. Special thanks went to IAC President, M. Mathews and members of the IAC.

The state parade was led by Festival Queen, Vileta Fernandes, and the festival drummer who was the official mascot. Goa and Kerala both were truly well represented by their largest contingents. Some states however, were represented by a contingent of one.

In the mass dancing that followed the bhanga dancers of Punjab although very lively and colourful was a trifle disordered but the Gujarati dandiya ras dancers and the over 200 classical dancers soon set things in order.

The evening ended with the formation of the map of India by the participants. Torch-bearers added to the fantastic display. The evening was compered by Adeb Shuaiber, Prabha Sivaram and Vasantha Balika.



Representatives from the state of Manipur.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bousahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Bousahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr. Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Isah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'i. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

ACT

ACT's production of "Voyages", an evening of words and music about travel, will be presented one night only at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School on Thursday, May 10, 1990. This readers theatre presentation includes selections of humorous and inspiring poetry and prose by contemporary and classical authors. 3KD admission includes tight buffet. Call 5620332, 4-8 pm for reservations. Tickets are also available at the door.

Garden Fete

Hyderabad Festival Committee announces the holding of a garden fete on Friday, May 11, Messilah Beach Resort. It will be open to all families. Hyderabad food, magic show, games and a lot of fun is promised for families. A fancy dress competition is also proposed. Parents of children below 12 who wish to take part in the event can register children's name on 5619071, Mr. Khan.

May Queen

GOAN Welfare Society will crown the May Queen at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, May 10 from 9 pm onwards. Top Ranks in attendance. Airline tickets to be won. For reservations contact Joe (Tel. 4881387), Cajetan (Tel. 5618971), Braz (Tel. 4763674) and Newstoun (Tel. 5637726).

LIL May meeting

COME enjoy our meeting this month at the Holiday Inn in the ballroom on Monday, May 7, 1990.

Our programme this month is a traditional Middle Eastern wedding demonstration which promises to be fun and exciting. Doors open - 6.00pm. Doors close - 7.30pm. Programme starts - 7.30pm sharp. For further information contact Barbara - 5325131.

Hungarian Festival

EXPERIENCE the culinary delight and cultural charm of Hungary at Kuwait International Hotel. A kitchen brigade from Duna Intercontinental, Budapest will prepare authentic cuisine featuring specialties like Hungarian chicken stew with Gnocchi, stuffed cabbage Grandmother Style, Fillet of Veal Budapest Style, Hortobagy Pancakes, Somlo Sponge Cake... and live gypsy music will set the mood for the occasion. Also features a "Raffle Draw" on May 10, in La Palma at 8.00 pm. Two return tickets to Budapest with room and breakfast for a week at Duna Intercontinental. Tickets on sale everyday. Festival continues up to May 10. Tel: 2530000.

Hyderabad Mushaira

THE committee for celebrations of four centuries of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 8.00 pm at Carlton Tower Hotel, Faded Al Salem Street. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in it along with prominent local poets. A limited number of seats left. Reserve your seat now to avoid disappointment. For passes and more details call Khalish Hyderabad, on 4735591 ext. 34 (between 7 am - 12.30 pm).

Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel No. 2406936 (Res), Aloo Carvalho, 2411442. Res. 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Kuwait Singers

THE Kuwait Singers present a Spring Frolic at the Gulf English School, Salwa, 8 pm, May 16, 17. Refreshments provided. Bookings: 5384873 & 3900922.

Daniella Dhow Trip

FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Dances has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am.

British Council

FEATURE FILM: *After Pilkington*, Saturday May 12 and Sunday, May 13 at 6.30 pm.

This won the prix Italia Drama Award in 1987. With a skillfully drawn framework of black comedy, the situation is deadly. Bob Peck, Miranda Richardson and Barry Forster render outstanding performance making more memorable the witty dialogue of Simon Gray's original screenplay.

CHILDREN'S FILM:

Teddy Ruxpin, a rainbow of many colours, Wednesday, May 18 at 6.00 pm and Thursday, May 17 at 10.30 am.

Hurry! Don't miss Teddy and his friends escaping from a giant runaway strawberry and making a daring journey to Rainbow Falls. Please book seats by calling Tel. Nos: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

Opel get-together dinner

OVERSEAS Pakistani Engineer's Forum is an association of Pakistani Engineers to promote socio-cultural activities in Kuwait. They are holding a get-together dinner at the SAS Hotel Ballroom on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 7 pm. All members and their guests are welcome. For details, please contact: Khursheed Mozaffar 2459609, Bader Khan 5610544, Abdul-Rahim 3901491. Any Pakistani engineer who would like to join Opel may also contact the above office-bearers for enrollment.

Around the World

THE United States Information Service has the pleasure of inviting you to an exhibition "Around the World" by American artist Luz Marina Colwell, starting Tuesday, May 8, 1990 at 5.30 pm, at the Kuwait International Hotel, Main Lobby. Exhibition will continue to May 16 from 9 am to 9 pm.

Konkani Theatre

MAY 10-11: Roseferns and his 15 member troupe arrive from Goa to present two Konkani dramas namely new release Xinxu at 7 pm (May 10) and repeated at 4 pm (May 11) and diamond jubilee completed Beiman Tum at 10.30 am on May 11 at Granada Cinema, Kheitan. Contrary to reports circulating, THIS IS NOT A LOCAL SHOW and Roseferns, popularly known as Goa's King of Centuries should not be mistaken for one local identical namesake in Kuwait. Tickets available at Raja Stores Tel. 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506. Canary Video 2459521 and Alex Martins. An Expatriate Club presentation.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho... Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC. Goan Charlie Chaplin - Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebbi Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Approb Essay Competition

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has again extended the last date of its essay competition for April 15 to May 31, 1990. The date has been extended at the popular demand because many interested students were unable to participate in the competition due to the examinations and later due to the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

The essay competition on the topic *My role in building a better Pakistan* is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants. The panel of judges includes: Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. Essays may be mailed to: Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, Kuwait, 22024. For further details, contact: 2425315, Fax: 5332751.

Ladies International League

SUMMER bazaar: Regency Palace Hotel, Friday May 11, from 10 am to 6.00 pm. Something for everyone. See you there.

HOTELS

Messilah Beach Hotel

Al Mubarakiah restaurant: The only 24-hour restaurant/coffee shop in Kuwait. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner or any time for refreshments and snacks. Wednesdays - special seafood promotions: Starting 7 pm with a selection of your favourite fish dishes prepared to your liking in the relaxed atmosphere decorated with that maritime touch and live background music. Fridays - special buffet: A go go with a large variety of Middle Eastern and Continental dishes. BBQ: Every Thursday night in Al Berdowneh the Beach Garden Restaurant offering

Lebanese mezzas, grills, fresh salads.

Al Jawharah: Open every Thursday for a special evening of food, music and entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band.

SPORTS

Kuwait Rugby

Thursday, May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run. Thursday June 6, Oval Ball. If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5644533, R. Houston 5658435.

Kuwait 4th Annual Raft Race

MAY 11, 1990 starting at 9.00 am. Don't forget this Kuwait's most awaited, spectacular, water sports event of the year at Messilah Beach Hotel. Tickets are on sale in the hotel or at the main entrance on the day. Just bring your family and friends for a day out. Keep a look out in the papers for our advertising for full details or contact us on 5624111 ext 711/712/739/751.

CINEMA

Al Andulus
Arabic film
Al Sahmiah
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Desh Ke Dushman
Fahad Open
Sone Ka Dil Lohe Ka Hath
Fahad
Dead End City
Al Jahra
Mutant
Granada
Operation Warzone
Salaikhbat
Cocktail
Jleeb
Bonar Moto Boon
Ahmadi Drive-In
Jungle Assault

PRAYERS

Fajr	3:34 am
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	3:20 pm
Maghreb	6:28
Isha	7:53

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Local serial
12.30 News in brief and closedown
EVENING
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Children's programme - Mama Aneesa and children
6.00 Historical serial - Muslim judges
7.00 Songs
7.15 Holy Quran and Science
8.00 International Circus
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Weekly local programme: Monday evening
10.15 Daily Arabic serial - Layali Al Helmiya
11.00 Variety programme
12.05 News in brief
12.10 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

6.10 A cartoon series for children
6.30 Animals of Africa. "Kalahari Cheetah". Kalahari is considered an ideal place for tigers where gazelles are in abundant numbers.
7.00 Roving report. A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.
7.30 Charles in Charge. Charles' mother hires a singer who imitates Elvis Presley... to perform in her restaurant.
8.00 News in English.
8.30 Around the World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world.
9.00 The Equalizer. "Silent Fury". A gang of three men steal the possessions of The Deaf Care Centres... McCall has to chase them and give a material testimony.
10.00 Family Matters "Body Damage". Carl is honoured by the police for his ideal driving and is given a classical car to drive in a parade to be run in the city.
10.30 Classic colour Movie. "The Battleground". During World War II, a group of American soldiers are besieged by the Germans in France.
12.00 News in brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

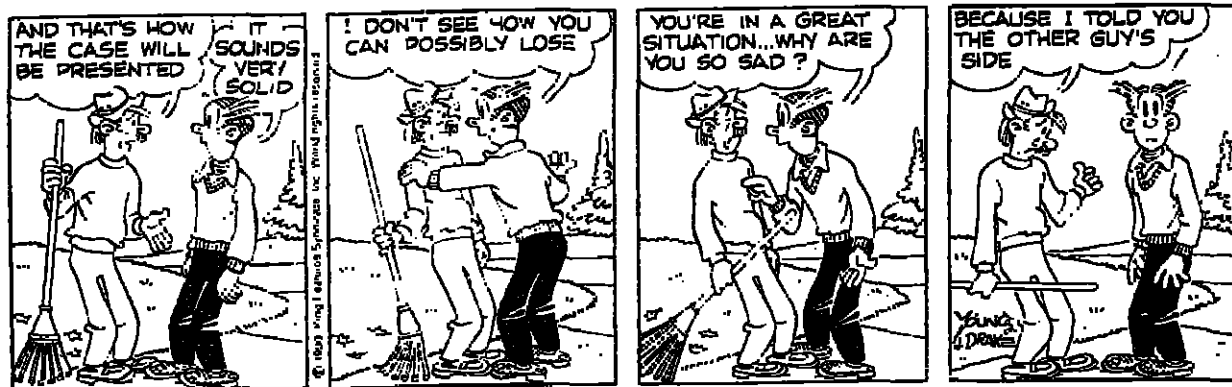
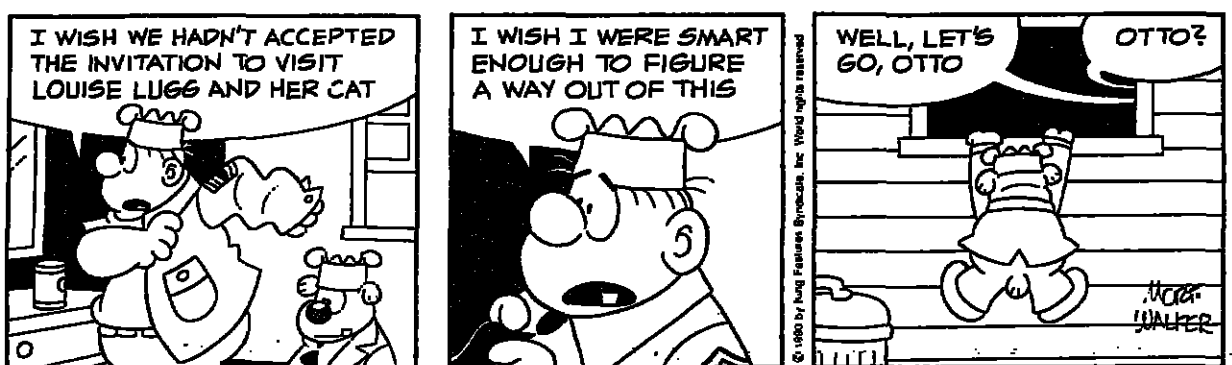
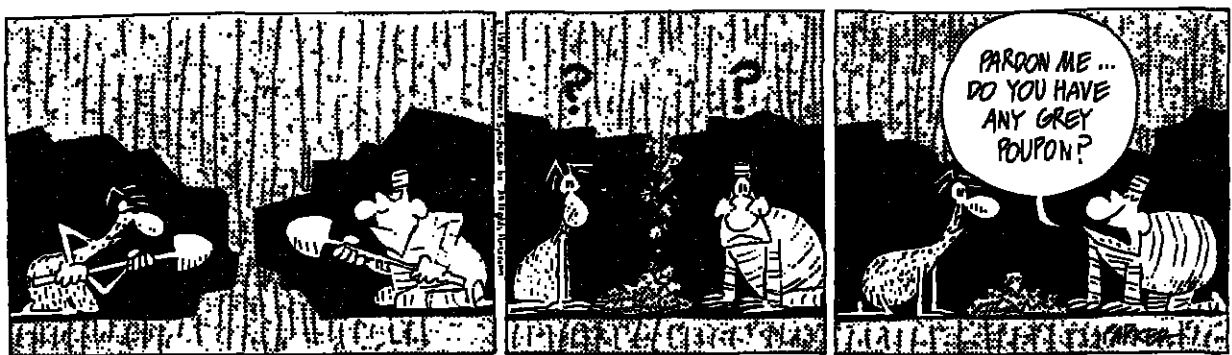
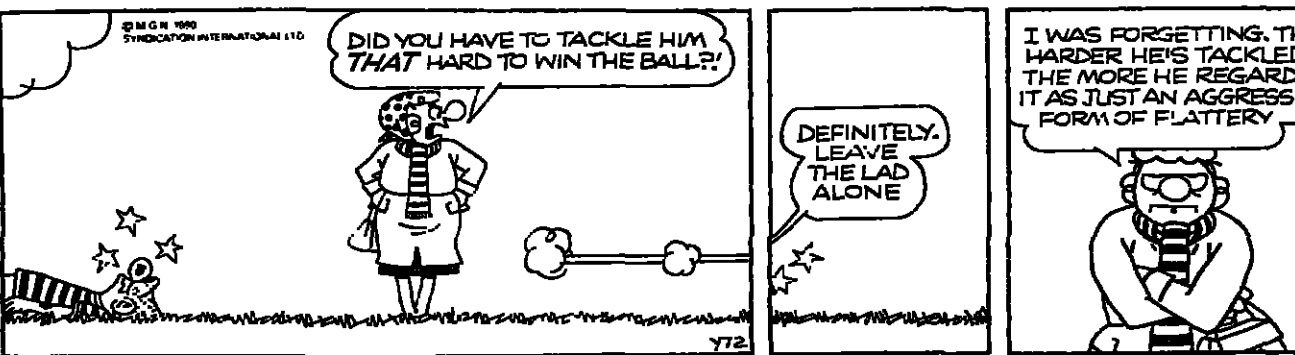
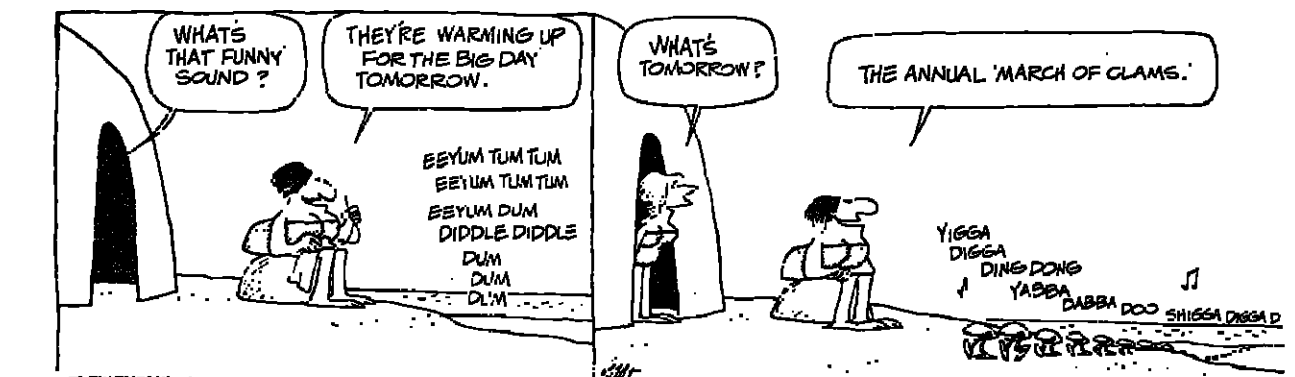
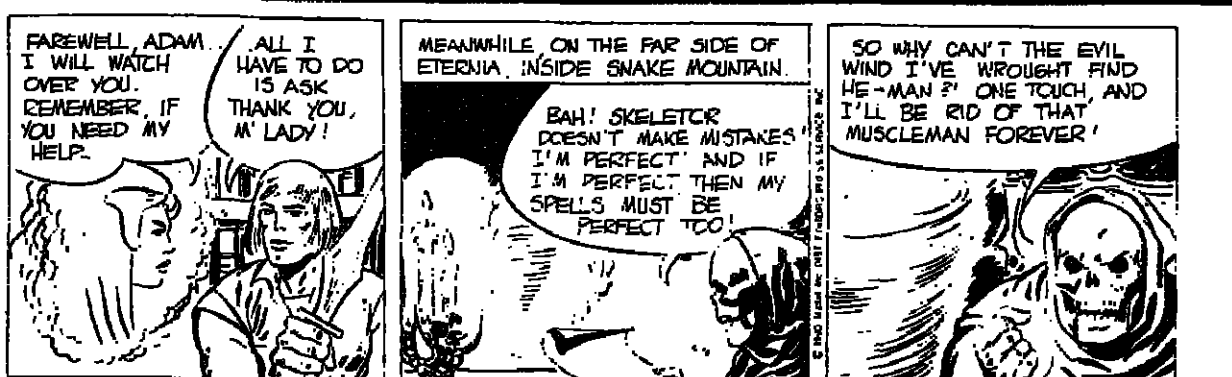
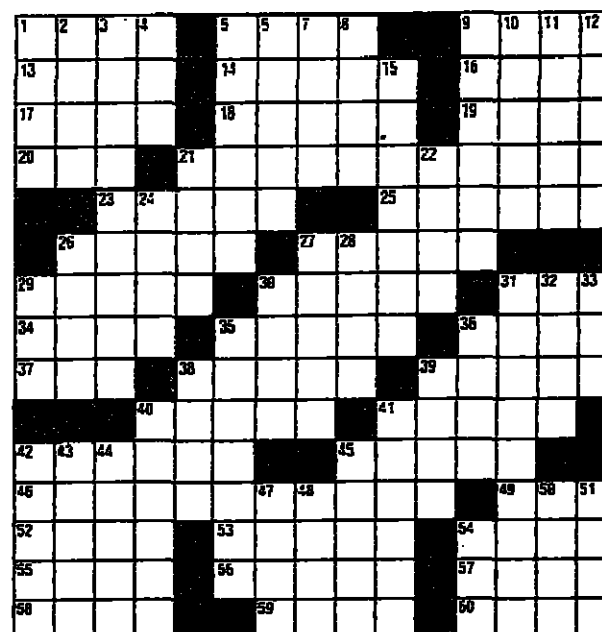


Marcela Cerna, the Opera singer from Austria.

Greetings from Vienna

THE name of the Austrian capital has a pleasant, friendly ring about it, and holds a certain fascination for us, today more than ever. The word resounds with history; the idyllic tranquillity of the Biedermeier period fills our imagination; great names which have gone down in musical or theatrical history spring to mind in a striking and confusing fashion. One is captivated by the prosperity, glory and decline of a great dynasty. Here, the gloomy mists of a tragic destiny which overshadowed the entire area under Viennese domination, between the Adriatic and Galicia, from the River Inn and the Bavarian Alps to the Carpathians and the German settled country full of fortified churches and even beyond.

Here, irrepressible cheerfulness and a likeable easy-going disposition go hand in hand with the engaging, warm hearted life-style of the Viennese. The coming week will see Austria unfurling in all its aspects at the Kuwait International Hotel. It will open with a 5 day Trade and Tourist Exhibition from 11th May with participation from major commercial companies, travel agents and the Austrian National Tourist office. Throughout the week, La Palma will present unique creations from the fabled "City of Vienna" with live entertainment. Meanwhile, La Patisserie has already been converted into an original Viennese Cafe presenting the ambience of the old cultural metropolis in the heart of Kuwait. But, an Austrian Festival cannot be complete without music, a variety of which will be presented each evening. The Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra having earned world renown will now perform in Kuwait on 11th May with Norbert Pawlicki as the Chief d'Orchestra. Since a quarter of a century Pawlicki is one of the leading Chief d'Orchestra of Austria. Marcela Cerna will be the Opera singer who has also performed across the length and breadth of Europe. The following evening will present the traditional annual highlight of Vienna's social life - the Opera Ball - "... a night of the world, a night only Austria can create, a feast of never-ending charm...". The ancient stepping dance, Polonaise, will inaugurate the evening. An evening of folkloric music from the highlands of Austria will be held on 13th May. The group, Laimeralm, come from Salzburg. They have performed for the radio and television around the world. And for those who have a streak of adventure, hot air ballooning from the hotel's premises will allow one to soar into the world of fantasy. This unique festival is being organised by the Austrian embassy in co-operation with Austrian Airlines, Austrian National Tourist Office and the Kuwait International Hotel.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hober**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forten & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD****ACROSS**

- 1 Selleck and Brokaw
5 — accomplish
9 Catches
13 Like — out of hell
14 Shady place
16 Toward the sheltered side
17 Ready for picking
18 Storage box
19 Midmorning
20 — Aviv
21 Symbol of Judaism
23 Customs
25 Saree wearers
26 Knock down
27 Greek letter
29 Vigilant
30 Roosevelt's Bull
31 Party
31 Shoshonean
34 Martin or Rusk
35 Wetland
36 Fall or flake starter
37 Crossword clue: Abbr.
38 Schedules
39 "A miss is as good as —"
40 Hecklers, for example
41 Talk nonsense
42 Catches
45 Rule
46 Symbol of freedom
49 Task
52 Airline abbreviations
53 More than odd
54 Produced
55 Art Deco illustrator

DOWN

- 1 Pastry tray item
2 Theater award
3 Canadian symbol
4 Fr. holy woman
5 Element
6 Tapestry
7 Construction beam
8 Dorothy's dog
9 Cereal fruit
10 — and kicking
11 Aladdin's benefactor
12 Acorns, e.g.
15 Hit the spot
21 Inoculation
22 Calendar entry
24 Flipped
26 Skip town
27 Wrongful acts
28 Cartwright son
29 Fold in eggs
30 Sail support
31 British symbol
32 Bridge fee
33 Born to be shorn
35 Faux pas
36 Weather word
38 Wanton look
39 Seed cover
40 Adjust in advance
41 Cross out
42 Catch some z's
43 Before glycerin
44 Reduce
45 Slows a steed
47 Part of a decade
48 Spirit in Siena
50 Garfield's dog
51 Garden plots
54 Fannie —

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HAIR SET RATSO
IDEA OMAR ETHEL
MANN RILL ASONE
MOZART CONCERTO
ALE ETA
LOANING DOS SAP
OMNI TALE TAPER
BEETHOVEN SONATA
ENLAI EXIT TINY
SSE GIL MARINAS
WHO MAP
BRAHMS SYMPHONY
LUCIA TORE DIAL
OBITS EYED ELLA
CEDES NODE SEED

GOREN BRIDGE**BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF****TAKE CARE OF THE PENNIES**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 8

♥ A K Q 8 6 3 2

♦ 5

♣ Q 10 9 4

WEST

♠ K Q 10 7 2

♥ 9

♦ 10 9 6 2

♣ K 8 5

EAST

♠ 4 3

♥ J 10 7 5 4

♦ K Q J 8 4

♣ 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 9 6 5

♥ Void

♦ A 7 3

♣ A J 7 6 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

When one speaks about entries,

most players think in terms of high

cards. A frequently overlooked

means of transportation is the

trump suit itself.

North's jump in hearts showed

one of two types of hands—either

one containing a self-sufficient suit,

or one with a big fit for partner. In

some ways, North's hand qualified

on both counts. Once the club fit was revealed, an orgy of true-bids followed, and North-South found themselves in an excellent small slam. All that remained was for South to justify the auction by landing the slam.

Not even the evil 5-1 heart split and 3-1 trumps should stop declarer from getting home. His plan should be to concede a trump trick and set up dummy as the master hand by establishing the hearts, using trumps as entries.

After winning the ace of spades, declarer should have led a low trump immediately. It does not help for West to rise with the king, so let's suppose that defender ducks. The table's nine wins, and declarer ruffs a heart high and leads another trump. West might as well win the king and return a trump. That gets won on the board, declarer ruffs another heart and the suit is now established. There's still a trump in dummy as the entry to the hearts.

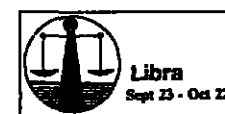
Note that this line also works with a diamond lead, even if West wins the first trump and forces dummy with a diamond. Declarer simply continues by ruffing a heart and manipulating his trump entries to set up and run the hearts.

**YOUR STARS**

At first all will seem to be at odds but soon a pattern will again emerge. Do not leave your partner in any doubt about your love. You must not think that only you have good ideas. Be astute.



After a long discussion you will arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. You should not trust too much to luck even if you have some. Do not insist on having your own way in all things. Be less supercilious.



The situation is rather complex and you should do all you can to simplify it. Do not neglect a small infection and do not eat anything stale. Do not resist change, instead welcome it. Be tactful.



You must make sure of closing doors and windows when you go out there are thieves about. Make sure you do not trust to luck to find the way; do consult a map. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be alert.



You will tend to be rather on the nervous side, try to keep calm. Do not allow others to tread on you but do not do so to others either. Try to keep up to date with your reading. Something you have been delaying should not be put off much longer. Be sincere.



You will have problems discovering how a mechanical device works. Do not allow yourself to become angry, just leave it to one side. It will become clearer later. Spend some time with your friends. Be amenable.



You will be better able to do what is needed to meet your commitments. Do not leave until later what should be done now. Keep your eyes wide open and do not believe all you hear. Be responsive.



You will not have time to do all you would like to do. However you will be able to enjoy doing what you do have time to. Try to avoid everything that is likely to give rise to tension. Be moderate.



Not everything will be as you would wish it to be but much is. You will be able to take advantage of what is in your favour. Your lucky numbers are 23 and 37. You should not worry about something that is not likely to happen. Be responsive.



You are liable to omit some important details so make sure you pay extra attention. You should make sure you do not underestimate the capabilities of your rivals. There is no time to sit and stare. Be considerate.



You are liable to be a little more argumentative and should do all you can to keep away from those you tend to argue with. Also to be avoided is loud noise. There is reason for a little more optimism. Be respectful.



You will be tempted to spend more than you can afford, think again. Concentrate on essentials and leave secondary matters until you have a bit more time for them. However do not become superficial or drop your standards.



'Calm' settles the dust at Australian stockyards

SYDNEY, (Reuters): More than a million sheep and thousands of cattle and pigs will go under the hammer in Australia this year, never having a quiet stockyard. They will be auctioned by computer.

Calm is the name given to the world's first computerised stock auction system and it is revolutionising the way Australian stockmen do business. "It will one day certainly replace salesyards as the major sale arena," said Howard Gardner, chief executive of Computer Aided Livestock Marketing (Calm).

Instead of attending outback salesyard auctions, buyers across Australia can now bid for stock they have never seen using a mainframe computer situated on the air-conditioned 23rd floor of a Sydney office tower.

By logging into Calm through a personal computer, buyers can simultaneously bid for thousands of head of stock scattered across this vast continent.

Using 1,700 assessors, who inspect stock entered for auction, Calm compiles a statistical catalogue for each lot, which includes an animal's live and dressed weight, fat content, age, sex, grazing conditions and veterinary treatment.

"The detail of the assessment probably gives the buyer more information than he would pick up seeing and feeling the animals," said agricultural expert Neil Inall.

"We have de-registered a lot of assessors because they haven't made the grade," Gardner said. "In fact, a lot of people who have been stockmen all their lives don't make the grade."

Buyers are required under the conditions of purchase to have stock reassessed when slaughtered.

If stock turn out to be of poorer quality than the initial sale assessment the purchase price is discounted, while if stock are of higher quality the producer is paid a premium.

"A buyer should get what he pays for and a seller should be paid for what he delivers," said Gardner.

By avoiding the salesyard the producer reduces his transport costs as he can ship stock directly to the purchaser.

"Our philosophy is to get a consistently better quality product from the producer to the slaughterhouses or breeders," said Gardner.

Since its launch in July 1987 Calm has experienced 60 per cent growth in cattle sales, 47 per cent growth in lamb and sheep sales and 46 per cent growth in pig sales.

The Calm licence was recently sold to New Zealand stock agents Fletcher Challenge who intend using Calm's computer in Sydney to hold their first auction on August 1 at which Australian buyers will be able to bid.

But Calm's rapid growth belies the stubborn resistance it has encountered from conservative stockmen, and stock agents worried about loss of income.

Malcolm Kater, a fourth generation stockman in western New South Wales, has used Calm twice but remains sceptical of the new technology.

"I just don't know," said Kater, shaking his head as he inspected a Calm screen on display at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. "I still like to kick a bit of dust."

Kater admits Calm has obvious cost saving benefits, but adds stockmen have idiosyncratic ways of judging animals which they are reluctant to abandon.

"When I go to an auction I always sit in the second row and if a young 18-month-old bull stands up to my solar plexus I know he's very good and must've had good breeding," said Kater. "You can't do that with Calm."

Kater said Calm was a good price barometer, but believed it would never replace salesyards.

"You fall in love with your stock. You breed them, raise them, and sure you know they're going to have their throats cut, but you want to haggle a bit before you let them go," said Kater.



Randy one of the frontier men looking for a bride.



Alaska Men magazine cover. The magazine has now introduced a hot line on which women can hear a message recorded by anyone of the men and leave a personal reply.

Lovelorn kings of the wild frontier

STRONG, tough and self-reliant, the men of Alaska are kings of the last American wild frontier. There's just one thing missing from their lives... women.

Now an enterprising mother of nine has set about remedying that drawback to life in the most rugged state.

Susie Carter and husband, Dave, have founded a magazine called Alaska Men dedicated to finding mates for the moosecraze that smiles out from its glossy pages hoping to entice the unattached women of America northwards.

And 200,000 of them who live where there is tougher competition for dates are already buying the quarterly magazine.

Susie's mission of mercy, which has brought new hope of happiness to a land where men outnumber women by as many as 35 to one in the more remote regions, is to be extended to television.

The uncrowned king of the box, star-maker Aaron Spelling, is to make a two-hour television special on the Carters and their work and follow it up with a "fiction" series loosely based on some of their success stories.

Spelling, the driving force behind the string of hit shows from *Charlie's Angels* and *Hutch* to *Hart to Hart* and *Dynasty*, plans to put it out on the ABC network.

"We are thrilled," says Susie. She adds: "Alaska has an abundance of interesting and exciting men whose rugged individualism, spirit and vitality make them unique among the men of the world."

"Alaska's men are one of her finest natural resources."

The samples on offer in a recent edition of the magazine confirm her boast.

Take Gene Weschenfelder, an energy specialist who visits 45 remote Alaskan communities in the line of duty, and is pictured pulling a sled across the foot of a 10,000 ft glacier covered with snow.

Thirty-two-year-old Gene, who has grey-green eyes and stands 5ft 11 ins in his socks, is looking for a "woman who'd be willing to dig me out of an avalanche if need be."

Dishy Jeff Seastone went to Alaska to do summer stock and stayed on to study theatre at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. Jeff, who is 23 and has been in love with theatre since the age of 12, wants to move to Hollywood eventually.

Meanwhile, he would ask any woman he thought might interest him just three questions — what her favourite cartoon is, what her favourite crayon colour is, and what flavour ice cream she likes best.

The answers, he says, would tell him if she could be suitable for him.

Chuck Lastufka is pictured in plaid shirt and knee-high waders holding a fish almost as big as himself and standing in front of his own private plane.

Chuck, who is 56, has a degree in education and speech and is currently a real estate associate who has been single for nine years and says his two college student children are the accomplishment of which he is most proud.

He would like letters from "serious women of integrity and class."

Dough Oams, pictured with a fish almost as large as Chuck's is a 30-year-old data processing manager of a retail chain who says he wants to continue to explore "the mystery and mystique" of life in Alaska.

Susie herself is one of Alaskan men's biggest admirers. She says: "They are men face the extremes of Alaskan life — the dark, cold winters, the vast emptiness of unpopulated lands and the isolation, with humour, determination, and an appreciation of life on the last frontier."

"They are men who find strength and satisfaction in their unique lifestyle. Here are the men of whom legend is made. They are gold miners, fur trappers, bush pilots and explorers, oilfield workers, executives, construction workers and doctors."

"And each has his own Alaskan dream."

Susie, whose nine children range in age from 30 years down to nine, met her own husband in California. The trouble was, he was an Alaskan man at heart.

In the end, he persuaded her to give it a try. She says: "I was used to the ocean and the beach and the hot weather. But I agreed that I would come and would stay for a year."

Eight years later, she loves the place as much as he does and has no plans to move south again. She says: "My friends say we are so far away from everything here but we are actually very well situated for getting to other places."

"We can hop over to Hawaii, or to the Orient, or to England, very easily from Alaska."

Though she took to Alaska herself with an unexpected enthusiasm, Susie soon became concerned about the men who were part-time or full-time fathers but without women in their lives there.

With three men for every two women in the population overall, and a very much greater imbalance away from the bigger centres, he believes divorcees and widowers were handicapped when it came to finding a new mate.

It was for them, above all, that she and Dave, who were both already publishers, decided to launch Alaska Men two years ago.

Already, she has been invited to three of the 30 odd wedding ceremonies performed or being planned as a result of the magazine.

She says: "It is impossible to tell how many more couples we have brought together. Some will obviously choose just to live together. Others head for the hills together and we never hear of them again."

"I hope some of them will get in touch and tell us their experiences so they can be included in the television special."

One couple who have already talked about their romance are identified just as Ed and Trish. They are planning a wedding as soon as they can work out how to get all their friends and families, who live thousands of miles apart, together for the ceremony.

Trish was living in her small home town in eastern Kentucky when she heard of Alaska Men and took out a year's subscription.

One look at Ed and she knew he was someone she would like to know better. She showed it to her son, Chris, and he thought so, too. So she wrote.

The letters soon became telephone calls, the first of which lasted an hour and a half. They exchanged tape recordings. She sent him home-baked cinnamon rolls.

But it was her peach cobbler, express-mailed to Alaska, that clinched it. Ed says: "She may as well have sent me a marriage proposal. It was the best peach cobbler I'd ever tasted."

A few days later, he sent her a plane ticket. Ed met Trish at the airport with a rose. When they got to his home, there was a huge bouquet and a card for her. In it he suggested they try growing old together.

Ed recalls: "She acted kind of strange when she saw the card. Then she pulled a duplicate out of her purse then the same message for me." More than 4,000 miles apart, they had chosen exactly the same card for one another.

The day before she was due to go home to Kentucky, Ed bought Trish an engagement ring. She still went, but only long enough to pack a few possessions and bring her son back to Anchorage with her.

'Shrink to the stars' reveals dark secrets

From Frank Durham in Los Angeles

THE movie star sat, clutching his newly-won Oscar, and tears of sheer terror couched down his cheeks.

He had fled from the glittering party, the champagne and the congratulations. Now, in the small hours of the morning, the star was facing his moment of truth.

He didn't deserve this Academy award. There was nowhere to go now but down. Or so he kept telling himself.

He sat in a Bel Air mansion and, like a thousand stars before him, poured out his fears to the vital, birdlike doctor he had roused from her bed.

Dr. Irene Kassorla was dispensing tea and expertly tailored sympathy. She recognised classic symptoms present in most of her celebrity patients, who were suffering from a chronic attack of fame and wealth.

For Dr. Kassorla, with her all-star practice, knows success can kill as surely as a bullet in the head.

It can drive a star to drink, drugs and self-destruction. Just as it struck down John Belushi and Marilyn Monroe.

Fame can make a star a recluse, shut away from the adoring world and turning down plum parts. Its corrosive guilt can even destroy a star's children.

From her mansion in the heart of the film community, Dr. Irene Kassorla has seen it all. She has become an expert on pain. And of the extraction thereof.

She knows the secrets behind those famous facades. The fears behind those confident and beautiful faces. Being rich and famous can almost be a disease in itself.

Dr. Kassorla, whose expertise has brought her a multi-million-dollar home formerly owned by Jack Benny, opened her casebook by telling me more about the fearful Oscar winner.

She said: "There was a knock on my door at four am. The star was drunk and crying. He said that winning the Oscar was an accident and that he didn't deserve it. He would never be able to do it again."

"People would realise that he is a fraud. How could he top this achievement? He was finished now. We sat there drinking tea and talking for three hours."

The star, whom I can't name for ethical reasons, was overwhelmed by his success. He would have been in better shape if he had been runner-up.

In the end, the doctor taught her patient the art of enjoying rather than fearing his success. Just as she does the other stars who make discreet visits to her mansion or phone her day and night from all over the world.

She explained: "My work is helping people tolerate and get used to success. And I have to watch them very closely."

"When people become very revered, wealthy and all doors are open to them, they tend to be self-destructive."

"They get on to cocaine or become alcoholics. For success is very hard to take. A famous woman TV personality here dealt with fame by eating and eating until she had destroyed her looks."

"Stars' children can become sick and delinquent and some commit suicide. What happens, generally, is that there is too much of everything in their lives. Even too many Lamborghinis."

"The parent will hand the child \$500 to spend, and the youngster goes crazy with



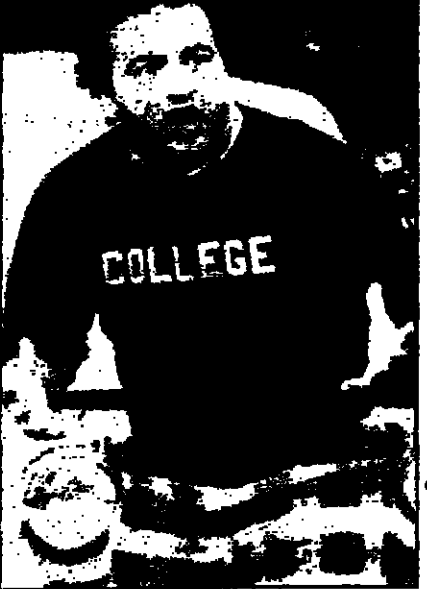
Right: Mixed Blessings: For actors like Terms of Endearment co-stars Shirley MacLaine and Jack Nicholson, winning an Oscar is the pinnacle of their career, for others it becomes too much to handle.



Top: Rich Pickings: Dr. Kassorla enjoys the luxury of her multi-million dollar Bel Air mansion, formerly owned by Jack Benny.



Breakdown: Gender-bender Boy George, recently cured of his deadly heroin addiction, is the latest star to succumb to the constant pressures of superstardom.



Fatal: Animal House Actor John Belushi's drug death was typical of Tinseltown's excesses. "It all becomes intolerable," says Dr. Kassorla. "Excess is like a itchy sweater."

Not all can cope with the fatal pill of fame

hard way, too.

Like the pop groups who come rocking into Tinseltown. Dr. Kassorla said: "I've had entire groups in here. One, which had five musicians, were at the very top and making a fortune."

"Their two managers, who were already patients of mine, brought the boys in because they were splitting up. I kept them together for another year."

"These boys were typical, kids who come up from the streets with barely any clothes or shoes. All of a sudden, they are earning thousands of dollars and they go nuts."

"They don't know what to do with it all, and they get into drugs. These affect their sex lives... at first, positively. Then, because they take too much, negatively."

"Their sex starts going and they become angry. When they were poor, they were loving and sweet. Now they are

rich, they are mean. They go nuts and end up with me or another doctor."

"People are very frightened about enormous sums of money and great fame. They know how to suffer but they're lousy at being very successful. I have to teach them to tolerate pleasure."

Dr. Kassorla went on: "I was treating a young rock star who was so nonchalant about money that, after he had left, I would find \$100 bills where he had been sitting. They must have come out of his pocket when he pulled out his handkerchief."

"He just didn't care about money. Only drugs. I saved his life just in time."

Another patient gave up acting and took up motor-racing. He just wanted to flirt with death. Recklessness is one of the "fame symptoms" the doctor recognises again and again.

So is running away to become a recluse. Dr. Kassorla explained: "They do this so that it stops the approval they don't think they deserve. It stops the adoration, it stops the fame, it stops the money."

"And it can start the criticism. The papers say you haven't made a film lately or had a hit record for a few years. It's very self-destructive."

Even being the most beautiful of people in the world of Hollywood gorgeousness can be an agony. Dr. Kassorla said: "A patient can have a billion dollars and a successful marriage and career, and they'll be worried about a flaw on their body or whether they're going bald."

"Say someone makes the list of the ten most beautiful women. Instead of feeling good, she is scared to death she won't make it next year."

Dr. Kassorla appeared on television to interview Joan Collins and Omar Sharif on the question "Is Beauty A Problem?"

She found Joan Collins handled her glamorous image well, working on it with professional zeal. But the Shrink to the Stars uncovered some revealing facts about Mr. Sharif.

She said: "He doesn't like beautiful women because he finds them intimidating. Omar is not the most romantic figure in the world as far as I am concerned. He has a very Arab view of women."

He is saying, "Be quiet. Don't contradict me. Adore me." The reward for the woman? He leaves them. He has love affairs with all his stars. He said Barbara Streisand seemed very homely to get at first but, as they got into a relationship, she became more beautiful.

"But that, like all Omar's affairs, was terminal. He says he can get any woman because he fulfills all their desires. One of my desires would have been to have a permanent relationship."

Dr. Kassorla found Joan Collins a much better case of beauty. She explained: "Omar Sharif is no longer a beautiful man. Whereas Joan Collins, at the same age, is lovely, voluptuous, charming and sweet."

"Before I went on to the show, I was told she would eat me alive and spit me out. But she couldn't have been more sensitive."

The phone rang, a Maserati swept past the doctor's electronic gaze. Dr. Kassorla had to get back to work... taking the pain out of fame.

She said: "I teach people to grab the moment. To grab life."

Her movie star smile and zest for celebrity living suggested that Dr. Irene Kassorla was taking her own medicine.

Science and technology news

Sound diagnosis of torn cartilages

By Mike Wolseley

LONDON, (LPS): The accuracy of diagnosing torn knee cartilages has been dramatically improved by a new computerised knee injury screener that analyses sounds from the cartilage as the joint is moved.

The screener is the result of research by a team from Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The project, led by orthopaedic surgeon Gavin Tait, has just won a £10,000 UK national invention of the year award.

Existing clinical techniques for diagnosing the common problem of torn knee cartilages depend on the skill of the surgeon and have an optimum accuracy of between 60 and 70 per cent. By contrast, clinical trials with the new screener have produced an overall accuracy of 86 per cent with the additional benefit that it does not need to be used by a skilled surgeon to achieve such results.

Paul Maginn, clinical research fellow in the University's orthopaedic surgery department, explained: "Knee problems are the most common reason for referring patients for orthopaedic surgery, particularly sportsmen who put a lot of pressure on the two cartilages within the knee. These fibrous structures act as a type of shock absorber to transmit the body weight when twisting or turning, and it is measuring vibrations from the cartilages during exercise and movement that our new technique is giving such accurate results."

"Using our new technology, the patient feels no pain because no injection is required, the examination takes only a few minutes and in preliminary trials with 100 patients in Northern Ireland we have proven accuracy rate of 86 per cent."

The computer system involves placing three sensors on the patient's knee, one on the knee cap and the others on each side of the lower end of the thigh bone. The sensors then pick up vibrations made by the cartilages when the knee is bent, and the VDU readout confirms the presence and position of a tear in the cartilage.

Paul Maginn, Clinical Research Fellow, Maginn Park Hospital, Stockman's Lane, Belfast 9, Northern Ireland; telephone 44-232 669501.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Amnesia caused by trauma can be treated successfully

QUESTION: Our daughter, whose marriage has been on the rocks for two years now and lives with us, was assaulted on her way home from a date, and was found unconscious. When she finally came to at the hospital, she could not remember a thing about the attack, us, her husband or job. Yet the doctors tell me there is nothing physically wrong with her and that treatment will gradually restore her memory. We need to know if this is possible, and what we should do to help her. We don't have a lot of money.

ANSWER: You need any money for this answer, and the good news is that if all you have told me in your long letter is correct, the diagnosis and treatment all sound rational to me.

Although psychological diagnosis depends upon knowing the patient and all the circumstances quite well, my impression of this situation is that your daughter is suffering from psychogenic amnesia. This occurs when the patients have been through a traumatic or a very distressing situation, and can happen even when there are no injuries to the brain. Although the amnesia usually involves just a short period, such as the hours after the trauma, it can be more generalized and effect a longer period, as in the case of your daughter.

There are many theories to explain the causes for the memory loss, but it frequently happens in young adults who have no previous history of mental disease, and may even be caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. There are many types of therapy, including medication, behavioral modification and psychotherapy, which is the treatment most frequently used.

Many patients recover after a short time without any special treatment, but all sufferers from amnesia should be followed closely by a physician who is alert to the possible complications that can arise. From your description, the doctor seems to have the situation in hand, and your daughter's care is proceeding well.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: Any idea where are many readers' questions on the expected subjects of heart disease and cancer, many on problems of older people, balanced by hordes of questions on childhood conditions and child care, the subject of weight loss and diet gets the nod for the most frequently asked-about subject.

Yes, we have included loads of information in our answers, and even a booklet or two on nutrition, but I doubt that you're ready for this one. It is called "50 Ways to Leave Your Blubber" and I doubt that I've ever had more fun with a patient education brochure. It's not your usual pamphlet, but a colourfully illustrated chart that highlights 50 different tips that can help you with your weight reduction programme.

Here's a sample: "Tip 18: When you begin to feel full, try this exercise. Place your two hands firmly on the edge of the table. Then straighten your arms while moving your torso away from the table. Stand up and walk away." See what I mean? You will be on the road to getting your own copy by sending your request to the creative people who designed this one, The National Dairy Council, Dept. MN, 6300 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018. Please include \$1 for postage and handling. You do NOT need to enclose an envelope for this one. When you get your copy, read Tip 13. It's my favourite.

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Fairbrother hammers Surrey for 311

LONDON, May 6, (Reuters): Batsmen in England made hay while the sun shone again yesterday, crowding a week of double and treble centuries with more record stands.

As bowlers wilted in the four-day county cricket championship matches, Lancashire's Neil Fairbrother led the way with a career best of 311.

Fairbrother's total, and his third-wicket stand of 364 with Mike Atherton (191), meant Lancashire ended the third day on 65 for three, a vigorous response to the massive 707 for nine, notched up by opponents Surrey.

At Chelmsford, where Essex were replying to Leicestershire's 520, England captain Graham Gooch and Paul Prichard both scored double centuries in a second wicket stand of

403, a club record for any wicket.

"I didn't know what the previous best was until it was announced but I was aware that we had beaten the best for the second wicket," Gooch said.

That was hardly surprising since it was Gooch and Ken McEwan who established it 12 years ago with 321 against Kent.

Gooch made 215 in six and a half hours

before being caught behind by Chris Lewis. Prichard eventually fell for 245, a career best that included 31 fours and two sixes. Essex ended on 712 for five.

Yesterday's high scores followed Friday's fireworks when Somerset's Jimmy Cook scored an unbeaten 313 and Surrey's Ian Greig smashed 291.

Australians edge past W. Germans

SYDNEY, May 6, (Reuters): Olympic gold medalists Australia beat 1981 champions West Germany 2-1 today to join England as host favourites to qualify for Pool A in the women's World Cup hockey tournament.

England overcame a rugged Chinese challenge to win 2-0, their third victory in three games. They lead the six-nation group by one point from Australia.

Two nations from each group qualify for the semifinals. Defending champions the Netherlands, like England unbeaten after three games, and Olympic silver medalists South Korea appear set to qualify from Pool B.

Australia, were much more disciplined today and deserved to win despite a spirited second half fight-back by the young West German side.

Kim Small opened the scoring for the top seeds in the 23rd minute and a superb flowing move nine minutes later led to a second field goal by Rachelle Hawkes.

Caren Jungmann, who also scored in Germany's 2-0 defeat of Japan, pulled one back two minutes after halftime from a short corner but an Australian victory was never in doubt.

China's rough tactics have annoyed many fans here but England, seeded fourth, showed early on they were not to be intimidated.

Goalkeeper Jo Thompson looked over Chinese vice-captain Hui Ping Yang after she tackled Thompson when the English player was on the ground. The referee took no action against Thompson awarding a free hit to England.

Karen Brown scored from a penalty stroke in the seventh minute and vice-captain Jill Atkins added a second two minutes before halftime.

In the third Pool A match Argentina and Japan drew 0-0, effectively ending both nations' hopes of reaching the semifinals.

Scott scores first victory

NEW YORK, May 6, (AP): Mike Scott struggled to his first victory of the season and his first regular-season win ever at Mets' Shea Stadium as the Houston Astros routed Dwight Gooden and New York.

Last Sunday in the Astrodome, Scott and Gooden got into a pitcher's duel that eventually won 2-1 in 10 innings. This time, the hitters ruled.

Scott (1-2) gave up a team-record four home runs, but still won after three previous losses in New York. Darryl Strawberry, Howard Johnson, Kevin McReynolds and Gregg Jefferies each homered off Scott, who gave up five runs on nine hits in six innings.

Dwight Gooden (1-3) allowed six runs on nine hits in 6-2-3 innings. He struck out six and walked two.

Game 4, Exposed 1
Houston hit a two-run homer that broke an eighth-inning tie and sent the San Francisco Giants past the Montreal Expos and ended their three-game losing streak.

Results	American League	National League
Texas	9 Cleveland	3 San Diego
Toronto	5 Detroit	6 Chicago Cubs
Minnesota	5 Milwaukee	5 St. Louis
Boston	5 Oakland	1 Philadelphia
Chicago WS	6 Kansas City	0 Cincinnati
N.Y. Yankees	11 California	0 Atlanta
Seattle	5 Baltimore	2 Pittsburgh

Atlanta at Pittsburgh postponed-rain

Earnhardt wins

TALLADEGA, Alabama, May 6, (AP): Dale Earnhardt nipped Al Unser Jr. in a record-setting opening round of the 1990 International Race of Champions yesterday at Talladega Superspeedway.

Earnhardt, a three-time National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (Nascar) Winston Cup champion, zoomed past Darrell Waltrip as the leaders in the 12-man all-star event drove into the third turn on the 2.66-mile (4.25-kilometre), high-banked oval on the final lap.

Two-time IROC champion Unser helped Earnhardt make the final pass, the last of 16 lead changes in the 38-lap, 101-mile (161.6-kilometre) race, but the Indy-car star couldn't make a run at the lead before the finish, crossing the line barely a car-length ahead in the battle of identically-prepared IROC Dodge Daytonas.

76ers eliminate Cavaliers

Trail Blazers take 1-0 lead



Hawkins got 39 points for 76ers

PHILADELPHIA, May 6, (AP): Horsey Hawkins scored a career-high 39 points yesterday, leading the Philadelphia 76ers to a 113-97 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers and into the second round of the NBA playoffs.

The 76ers, advancing to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the first time since the 1985-86 season, defeated the Cavaliers three-games-to-two in the first-round series.

They open a best-of-7 series tomorrow night at Chicago against the Bulls.

During the regular season, the Sixers and Bulls split four games, each winning twice at home.

The homecourt advantage the Sixers earned by winning the Atlantic Division title proved the difference in this series. Philadelphia won the first two games at home, then were beaten twice at Richfield, Ohio.

Back home yesterday, the 76ers took an early lead and never let Cleveland catch up.

Hawkins, who last season made only three of 24 field goal attempts as the Sixers were swept in the first round of the playoffs in three games by the New York Knicks, scored 16 points in the first quarter, two in the second period, 10 in

the decisive third period and 11 in the final quarter. He hit four 3-point field goals.

The Sixers had six players in double figures — Hawkins, Charles Barkley with 18, Ron Anderson 16, Rick Mahorn and Mike Gminski 12 each and Johnny Dawkins 10. Barkley also grabbed 19 rebounds.

Jerome Kersey scored 25 points and grabbed a career playoff high 16 rebounds yesterday as the Portland Trail Blazers opened the Western Conference semifinals with 107-94 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

Clyde Drexler added 23 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds as Portland fell behind by eight early in the third quarter, rallied to edge ahead at the end of the period, then pulled away at the finish.

Portland played without starting centre Kevin Duckworth, who suffered a broken right hand against Dallas Tuesday night. But the blazers still held a frustrated David Robinson to nine points on 3-of-11 field goals.

Robinson, guarded much of the night by rookie Cliff Robinson, missed his first eight field goal tries and attempted only one from the field in the second half.

Club Bruges take Belgian League title

BRUSSELS, May 6, (Reuters): Club Bruges had an easy 3-0 win over modest St Truiden yesterday to clinch the Belgian Soccer League title with a match still left.

It was the eighth national title for Club Bruges, who only needed a draw as nearest rivals Anderlecht were already four points behind.

Instead Club Bruges widened their lead to five as Anderlecht — whose minds were probably on their European Cup Winners' Cup final against Italian Sampdoria on Wednesday — stumbled to a 1-1 draw away at relegation-threatened Beveren.

Last year's champions Mechelen beat Kortrijk 1-0 to stay in third place, eight points behind Club Bruges, and clinch a UEFA Cup place for next season.

Dutch soccer internationals Johnny Bosman and Graeme Jolley are to leave Belgian club Mechelen, club coach Fi Van Hoof said yesterday.

Defender Rutjes will join rival Belgian side Anderlecht, while Bosman is reported to have had offers from Barcelona, Liverpool and Bordeaux.

"Now that we are certain that they will leave, we'll just fit in new players," Van Hoof told Belgian television.

Rene Eykelkamp of Dutch FC Groningen is expected to take place. Meanwhile, Mechelen's third Dutch international, Erwin Koeman, is negotiating a transfer to PVS Eindhoven.

Brazil tame Bulgaria

CAMPINAS, Brazil, May 6, (Reuters): Brazil scored an unconvincing 2-1 win over Bulgaria in a World Cup soccer warm-up match at the Brinco de Ouro stadium in Campinas yesterday.

Brazil, who at one stage were booed by the home crowd, won with an 80-minute header by defender Aldair following a jorginho free kick.

Earlier Muller had given the home side an eighth minute lead and Kostadinov had equalised for Bulgaria in the 15th minute.

It appeared the free kick from which Brazil scored their winner should not have been given.

The referee judged that Bulgaria defender Vashev had fouled Jorginho when it seemed that Jorginho had pushed Vashev.

Both sides were below strength. Brazil were missing Bebeto and Romario, both injured, and Mozer and Dunga, who were

unavailable. Bulgaria were without Mihailov, Getov and Iliev because their clubs would not release them.

The game began well with Bulgaria surprisingly going onto the attack and forcing Brazil goalkeeper Taffarel into action twice in the first five minutes.

It was Brazil who opened the scoring, however, with their first real attack. Careca, who had recovered from muscular pains, split the Bulgarian defence with a clever pass and Muller calmly placed his shot beyond the advancing Ilija.

After this, it seemed Brazil would win easily but Bulgaria stunned the crowd with an equaliser, thanks to a lapse in the Brazilian defence.

Iordanov, one of Bulgaria's best players, crossed from the right and Kostadinov, completely unmarked, was able to

volley past Taffarel from close range.

Bulgaria retreated into defence and Brazil, who concentrated most of their attacks down the right flank, created several good chances.

Careca nearly scored twice, first with a backheel and then with a header, while Muller had a shot saved by Ilija just before half-time.

The game deteriorated in the second half, with Bulgaria making five substitutions and Brazil three.

The best chance fell to Careca in the 65th minute, after a one-two with Muller, Brazil's best player along with Aldair. But the Napoli forward's shot was saved.

With Bulgaria content to sit back in defence and try the odd counter-attack and Brazil looking tired and making little headway, a draw seemed likely until Aldair struck.

US overcome Malta

PISCATAWAY, New Jersey, May 6, (Reuters): Eric Wynalda scored his fifth goal in 10 matches yesterday to give the United States a 1-0 win over Malta in a World Cup Soccer warm-up.

The match got off to a fast start before a crowd of 8,604 in Rutgers Stadium with the United States taking the lead in the seventh minute. Midfielder Tab Ramos collected the ball on the right and slipped it forward to Paul Caligiuri on the penalty area, who cut it back for Wynalda to blast a first-time shot inside the far post.

It was the 20-year-old Wynalda's fifth goal in 10 matches for the national team since his debut against Colombia in February national team since his debut against Colombia in February.

Malta almost levelled the score right away when Mike Windschmann headed the ball off the line from a corner and a second shot by Malta hit the crossbar.

After that the pace slackened off and neither team seriously threatened until near the end.

'Outsider might make final four'

ROME, May 6, (AP): The head of the World Cup organising committee in Italy predicted yesterday that an outsider might be among the final four in the soccer competition that begins next month.

Luca Cordero di Montezemolo jokes with reporters at the end of a news conference with foreign correspondents when asked to predict the final four teams.

"Brazil, (West) Germany, Holland, and — don't be disappointed — Italy," Montezemolo said. "But I have the sensation that there will be an outsider among the final four."

England players make Robson smile

LONDON, May 6, (Reuters): The good news for England manager Bobby Robson is that most of his World Cup players rounded off the League season in superb style.

The bad news, with less than five weeks to the start of the World Cup finals, is that crowd violence reared its head again this weekend.

Matches across England were interrupted by pitch invasions and fighting yesterday and 3,000 fans battled with riot police before the match in Bournemouth which confirmed Leeds as Second Division champions.

Hoped

Soccer officials, worried about possible clashes between English and Dutch followers in Sardinia next month and praying for the readmission of English clubs to European competition next season, had hoped for a calm end to the League programme.

But in the worst violence this season, Leeds fans — who have long held a reputation for troublemaking — pelted police with stones, bricks, cans and bottles outside Bournemouth's Dean Court ground.

In footballing terms, Robson will have been cheered by the sight of World Cup striker John Barnes netting a hat-trick for



Alan Smith (left) and Gascoigne: played well in the last League game

champions Liverpool. Barnes scored twice within three minutes in the first half and hit his third in the 61st minute. Two goals by Ronnie Rosenthal and one from Ian Rush gave

Liverpool a 6-1 win at Coventry. Several of the other names on Robson's list for Italy also showed the manager his confidence was well placed.

Alan Smith scored twice for

Arsenal, who drew 2-2 with Norwich. Mark Wright, with a spectacular 28th minute goal, was Derby's most impressive player in a 3-2 defeat by Luton and Paul Gascoigne set up one of the goals



Anke Schoenfelder of East Germany performs her 'floor' exercise on the first day of the European Gymnastics Championships. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boginskaya clinches crown

ATHENS, May 6, (Reuters): Soviet gymnast Svetlana Boginskaya romped to her second European crown yesterday and said she plans to retire later this year because she is too old for the sport at 17.

With most of the top Soviets and Romanians injured or retired, Boginskaya was the only serious candidate for the all-round title.

After she gained a perfect 10 for her vault, the contest was for second place.

Her relatively unknown compatriot Natalia Kalinina, who gained a last-minute call up, dramatically overhauled Hungarian Henreitta Onodi in the final discipline and took the silver medal. Only 0.001 of a point separated them.

Onodi, defending champion on the asymmetric bars and fifth in the all-round competition last year, led into the vault by 0.04. She scored 9.862.

Kalinina, 16, older than Onodi but with no international record, waited for the result and then displayed impressive coolness on the uneven bars to earn 9.900 and took silver.

Real blast Oviedo

MADRID, May 6, (Reuters): Real Madrid ended their glorious Spanish Championship campaign yesterday with records, fireworks and a 5-2 defeat of Real Oviedo.

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez scored a hat-trick to equal the Spanish League record of 38 goals set by Telmo Zarra of Athletic Bilbao 39 years ago. He also matched Alfredo Di Stefano's achievement of finishing top marksman in the championship five times.

One hundred thousand enthusiastic fans packed the Santiago Bernabeu stadium to watch Real crown the season with a record 107 goals and finish 11 points clear of second-placed Barcelona and Valencia.

Oviedo were certainly not overawed by the occasion and took a sixth minute lead through Jorge Vinals.

Joaquin Parra levelled in the 15th and Sanchez put Real ahead with a 37th minute penalty followed by a header in the 46th.

Oviedo striker Carlos Munoz dared to reply in the 59th minute but from then on the Real players queued up in an attempt to set up Sanchez for his historic goal.

He made it in the 63rd minute, and Carlos Aldana added the fifth four minutes later.

Real lived up to expectations on a night of celebrations. Each of third players carried a dove on to the pitch and the League trophy was paraded to a standing ovation and an elaborate display of fireworks and lights.

It was Real Madrid's 99th League victory and their 25th League title — but star international midfielder Rafael Martin Vasquez may have played his last game for them.

He is reported to have signed for Juventus.

Italian keeps overall lead

ALTO DEL NARANCO, May 6, (AP): Colombian Alberto Camargo won the 12th leg of the 45th Tour of Spain cycling race yesterday, finishing the 156-kilometre (96.7-mile) stretch over six mountain passes one minute and 25 seconds ahead of his closest pursuer.

Italian Marco Giovannetelli kept the yellow jersey of the overall leader for the second day, maintaining a 41-second lead over Camargo's Colombian teammate Julio Cesar Cadena in the 22-day, 3,600-kilometre (2,292-mile) race.

"Only when I saw the last kilometre sign did I think I had a chance to win because I had been waiting for the leaders to move behind me and eat up the few kilometres that separated us," Camargo said at the 600-metre (1,980-foot) high finish line. "Fortunately this didn't happen."

Eduardo Franco, spokesman for race organiser Unipublic, said Colombian rider Fabio Rodriguez of the Pony Malta team had been expelled for having been towed by a car during part of Friday's 11th leg.

Camargo completed yesterday's segment from San Isidro to Alto del Naranco in northern Cantabria in 3 hours, 56 minutes and 18 seconds with an average speed of 36 kph (22 mph).

Marseille score 2-0 win over Auxerre

PARIS, May 6, (Reuters): Marseille took a big step towards retaining their French League title when two late goals from strikers Enzo Francescoli and Jean-Pierre Papin gave them an impressive away victory over Auxerre yesterday.

Uruguayan World Cup star Francescoli struck in the 78th minute and Papin grabbed his 30th League goal of the season seven minutes later with a brilliant solo effort to give Marseille a 2-0 win.

The result not only ended Auxerre's seven-match winning streak, it virtually ensured the title will stay in the Mediterranean port.

Though rivals Bordeaux won their home match with Toulouse 2-1, the western club trail Marseille by two points with two games left. With a vastly superior goal difference, Marseille need just two points from their final matches, both at home.

Marseille were on top throughout at Auxerre but it took a moment of brilliance from Francescoli to make their advantage count. He took a pass from Papin on the edge of the box, sidestepped his marker and fired home past French national keeper Bruno Martini.

Papin's goal was even more spectacular. As Auxerre pressed forward, the striker took the ball from deep in his own half and ran 70 metres on his own with defenders desperately chasing him before calmly slotting it home.

Bordeaux scored twice in five minutes in the first half through Jean-Marc Ferreri and West German

Klaus Allofs but Toulouse pulled one back from Gerald Passi just before halftime and the nervous home side were lucky in the end not to concede an equaliser in the second period.

Third-placed Monaco increased their chances of a UEFA Cup place next season with a 1-0 home win over Metz, the goal coming after 67 minutes from Benjamin Clement.

Results

Auxerre	0	Marseille	2
Bordeaux	2	Toulouse	1
Brest	1	Montpellier	1
Cen	1	Racing Paris	0
Cannes	1	Nice	0
Monaco	1	Metz	0
Mulhouse	4	Lyon	4
P.S.G.	3	Nantes	2
St Etienne	0	Sochaux	2
Toulon	1	Lille	1
Toulouse	2	Lille	1
Strasbourg	3	Paris	3
Amiens	3	Paris	3
Caen	3	Paris	3
Nice	3	Paris	3
Racing Paris	3	Paris	3
Mulhouse	3	Paris	3

Perret rides Unbridled to victory in 116th Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, May 6. (Reuters) Unbridled, a 10-1 bet, received a great ride from jockey Craig Perret to win the 116th Kentucky Derby yesterday.

Summer Squall, at 2-1 one of the co-favorites at post time to win the mile and 1/4 test for three year olds, was overwhelmed in the stretch by Unbridled and finished second, three and a half lengths behind.

Pleasant Tap, at 40-1, showed amazing

staying power to finish third, nine and a half lengths off the pace.

Mister Frisky, the top pre-race choice at 9-5, finished eighth, a huge 19-1/4 lengths behind the winner.

"When you ask him to do something," Perret said, "He's more than willing to do it."

Perret did his share too.

Unbridled came out of the eighth post position and was nearly caught in a traffic

jam getting out.

But Perret, who won his first derby after three attempts, eased him back a bit and moved to the inside to bide his time.

Perret then threaded his horse through traffic for the rest of the race, brilliantly avoiding being boxed out.

Speedsters Fighting Fantasy and Real Cash took the lead as the 15-horse field pounded by the grandstands for the first time.

Unbridled was running side by side with Pleasant Tap around the first turn about mid-way back in the field.

Perret weaved his horse in and out and positioned himself directly behind eventual fifth-place finisher Silver Ending heading into the back stretch. Perret then took Unbridled inside to pass Silver Ending and then moved outside again.

When Perret came out of the turn, he spotted Pat Day on Summer Squall ahead

of him and stayed on the outside and breezed by the favourite.

As they charged down the stretch, Perret did not look to the inside, apparently knowing he had Summer Squall beaten, and looked to his right instead for any challengers.

There were none and Unbridled, under the urging of Perret, charged across the finish line at two minutes and two seconds on a track rated good.

It was the first derby victory for Unbridled's 92-year-old owner Frances Genter, who was in a box at Churchill Downs but could not see the race over the other spectators because she was in a wheelchair.

Carl Nafziger, a former rodeo bullrider and now Unbridled's trainer, also won his first derby and called the race for his owner, who has been involved in racing for 50 years.

"He's got the lead, he's got the lead," he shouted. "He's going to win, he's going to win. Mrs Genter you just won the Kentucky Derby."

"Ohhhhh," she said and covered her face with her hands.

Unbridled was named for another horse owned by Mrs Genter in 1949 who she had groomed for the Derby but had not made it.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Beardsley fit

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters) Liverpool striker Peter Beardsley, who has sidelined for a month with a knee injury, said today he was fit again and available for England's next World Cup warm-up game against Denmark on May 15.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, May 6. (Reuters) Results of the National Hockey League Stanley Cup semifinal playoff game yesterday: Wales Conference (finals) Boston Bruins 3 Washington Capitals 0 (Bruins lead best-of-seven series 2-0).

Dutch soccer

AMSTERDAM, May 6. (Reuters) Results of Dutch First Division soccer matches played today:

NEC Nijmegen	1	Ajax Amsterdam	1
Haarlem	0	PSV Eindhoven	2
Feyenoord	3	RKC Waalwijk	0
FC Groningen	3	FC Twente	2
FC Den Bosch	4	FC Den Haag	2
FC Utrecht	1	Vitesse	2
Fortuna	4	Volendam	1
Willem II	1	Sparta	1

Jones wins

SINGAPORE, May 6. (UPI) American Kelly Jones relied on his powerful forehand today to whip Austrian Richard Fromberg 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, (7-4) and capture his second \$250,000 Epson Singapore Tennis Championship.

India beaten

SEOUL, South Korea, May 6. (AP) South Korea won a doubles match today to take an unbeatable 3-0 lead over India in the Asia-Oceania Davis Cup zone tennis competition. South Korea's Yoo Jin-Sun and Bae Nam-Ju beat India's Zeehan Ali and Leander Paes 2-6, 6-0, 6-1, 3-6, 9-7 on a clay court in Municipal Stadium in Seoul.

Fans fight

BRUSSELS, May 6. (Reuters) About 500 soccer fans hurling paving stones, billiard balls and crosses stolen from a cemetery, fought pitched battles with police in the historic Belgian city of Bruges, the Belgian news agency said today. Seven police officers were slightly injured before they were forced to retreat from the square in the centre of Bruges, where the soccer fans set a police car on fire and seriously damaged four others. No arrests were made.

Women's volleyball

PUERTO DE SANTA MARIA, Spain, May 6. (Reuters) Results on the second day of the Women's World Volleyball Championship qualifying tournament yesterday:

Group A	
Spain	0
France	3
Venezuela	0
West Germany	0
Group B	
Mauritius	0
Australia	3
Netherlands	3
Poland	0

Bridge

RESULTS of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

N/S

1. Nabil Akel & Narendra Shah
2. J. Gajjar & Mohammed Elbaz
3. Santos Aurora & B. Jagg

E/W

1. Dr. Rida & Dr. Naem
2. Beatrice Pereira & Aubrey D'Souza
Results of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game played on April 28:

N/S

1. Dona Materny & Adel Bayoumi
2. Lolli Murthwaite & Nabil Akel
3. George Massoud & Ali Moussali

E/W

1. J. Gajjar & T. Simon
2. Suhendan & Melin Okay
3. Nurhan & Tami Toksol

The Hubara Centre Bridge Club will be holding their end of the season tournament on Friday, May 11, at 2:00 pm at the Hubara Centre. Participants should submit their names before May 8.

Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

1st E. Karaka & G. Chatinova
2nd Nabil Akel & Lolli Murthwaite
3rd Dona Materny & Banco Moussali

Graf outplays Sanchez

Gomez wins Madrid GP



Graf smiles as she holds her trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 6. (Reuters) World number one Steffi Graf overcame a first set scare to beat Spanish teenager Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 5-7 6-0 6-1 in the final of the \$350,000 Hamburg women's tennis tournament today.

West German Graf seethed over her own early mistakes and her opponent's moonball tactics but recovered her composure and control to record her 62nd successive match win and her 46th tournament victory.

Sanchez, ranked fourth in the world, set out to repeat the tactics that helped her to beat Graf in last year's French Open final.

She sent a stream of slow, high balls over the net, preventing Graf from getting the usual pace of her forehand and capitalised on the top seed's impatient errors to quickly go 3-0 up in the first set.

Graf, muttering to herself between points, broke back twice to 5-5 but then lost her service again.

But in the second set a more composed Graf began sending the

Spaniard from one corner to the other and she took the set to love with an array of precise forehands from the baseline and fine play at the net.

The 18-year-old Sanchez, whose bubbly personality won her many supporters in the 9,000 crowd and an ovation after the match, broke Graf in the first game of the third set.

But from then on the West German took complete command and she converted her second match point after two hours and eight minutes to earn the winner's cheque of \$70,000.

Andres Gomez, of Ecuador won his second ATP Tour tournament of the season when he defeated Switzerland's Marc Rosset 6-3 7-6 (7-3) in the \$310,000 "Grand Prix Villa de Madrid," today.

The 30-year old veteran who is currently enjoying a second spring on the circuit, gave 19 year old Rosset a lesson in what it's like to be a professional with 11-year's tour experience.



Runners start the Paris marathon. (Reuters wirephoto)

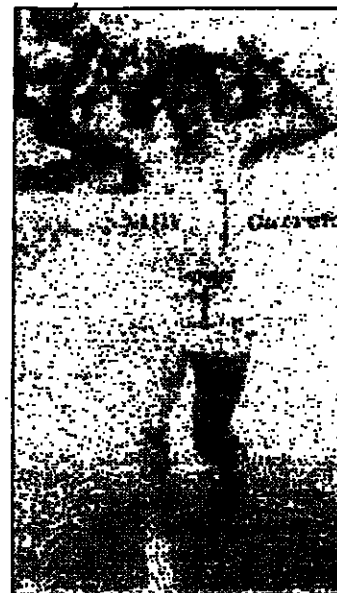
Brace retains title

PARIS, May 6. (AP) Britain's Steve Brace won his second consecutive Paris marathon in warm, sunny weather today, beating Jean-Baptiste Protais of France by 31 seconds.

Brace's winning time was 2 hours, 13 minutes and 10 seconds, well off the course record of 2:10:49 held by France's Jacky Boxberger.

About 12,000 people, one on stilts and another in a priest's vestment, entered the 42.2 kilometre (26.2 mile) race, held for the 15th time. Temperatures during the race climbed above 27 degrees Centigrade (into the low 80s Fahrenheit).

Brace pulled comfortably ahead of Protais with about four kilometres to go. Portugal's Manuel Matias, winner in 1988, finished third in 2:14:27, Japan's Toshihiro Shibutani was fourth in 2:14:44 and Brazil's Osmiro da Silva was fifth in 2:14:46.



Brace raises his arms in victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

Devoy beats Le Moignan for crown

HONG KONG, May 6. (Reuters) World number one Susan Devoy of New Zealand underlined her current supremacy on the international circuit with a straight-games victory over England's Martine Le Moignan in the final of the Hong Kong Open squash tournament on Sunday.

World champion Le Moignan had no answer to the top seed's impressive backhand drop shots and the speed around the court which helped Devoy to a 9-7 9-4 9-6 win.

Devoy, winner of the British Open last month, had the tougher route to the final but looked far fresher than Le Moignan and tested the fourth seed's stamina by extending the rallies.

"Without a doubt this has been the hardest tournament I have ever had to play," said Devoy after picking up her \$5,000 winner's cheque.

"I am just pleased to have won it. There was a lot of mental, as well as physical, pressure on me."

Guernsey-born Le Moignan, who beat Devoy to take the world title last year, said: "It is no disgrace to lose to her — she is just like a machine."

Sabatini to face attack

ROME, May 6. (Reuters) Gabriela Sabatini will come under attack from the old guard and the new when she defends her title in the women's Italian Open Tennis Championships which start tomorrow.

With world number one Steffi Graf again bypassing the Rome event, Argentine Sabatini, winner of the last two Italian Open titles, finds herself sandwiched between the challenge of veteran Martina Navratilova and a crowd of upstart teenagers.

Navratilova, beaten by Sabatini in the semifinals in her last appearance at the tournament three years ago, has yet to win the Italian title.

The 33-year-old Czechoslovak-born American will be looking to improve on two defeats in the Rome final by the now-retired Chris Evert in the mid-1970s.

West German Graf dislikes the lively atmosphere at Rome's Foro Italico and has not made an appearance since winning the title in 1987.

But there are plenty of young players looking forward to trying their luck on the Rome clay.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who put Sabatini through a tough final last year and went on

to beat Graf in the final of the French Open — also on clay — the following month, is back.

Yugoslav Monica Seles, 16, is in good form and fast-rising 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati, the American daughter of an Italian, is likely to have the boisterous Roman crowds on her side.

Sabatini, 19, has made a poor start to the season and needs a convincing run-in to the French Open and Wimbledon.

Her Spannish coach Angel Jimenez is worried about the determination she needs to go with her talent. "With her mental attitude it's impossible to progress," he said after a recent defeat.

The entry for the men's tournament, starting on May 14, is weaker with the world's top four — Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and last year's losing finalist Andre Agassi — all absent.

But with John McEnroe and French Open champion Michael Chang among a big American entry chasing the title, by Sabatini's compatriot Alberto Mancini, there is every chance last year's record of 188,650 spectators for the fortnight will be broken.

Sainz takes rally lead

AJACCIO, Corsica, May 6. (AP) Spain's Carlos Sainz drove his Toyota Celica to the lead today in the first day of the Tour of Corsica Auto Rally.

Sainz completed the 158-kilometre (98-mile) stage around Ajaccio in 46 minutes, 28 seconds, establishing a lead of 9 seconds over Didier Auriol of France, driving a Lancia Delta.

Another French driver, Francois Chatriot, was in third in a BMW, 20 seconds behind Sainz.

Auriol leads in the world championships standing with 35 points after three events. Auriol also won the Monte Carlo Rally in January.

The Tour of Corsica continues through Wednesday with a total distance of 1,397 kilometres (868 miles), with 30 timed special sections.

Leading standings in the Tour of Corsica Rally after today's 158-km first stage, which included four special timed sections:

1. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota Celica, 46 minutes 28 seconds.
2. Didier Auriol (France) Lancia Delta Integrale, three seconds behind.
3. Francois Chatriot (France) BMW M3, 20.
4. Armin Schwartz (West Germany) Toyota Celica, 21.
5. Yves Loubet (France) Lancia Delta Integrale, 34.
6. Bruno Saby (France) Lancia Delta Integrale, 55.
7. Marc Duez (Belgium) Ford Sierra Cosworth, 2:25.
8. Francois Delecour (France) Peugeot 309 GTI, 2:27.
9. Raimund Baumschlager (Austria) VW Golf GTI, 3:55.
10. Laurent Poggi (France) Citroen AX Sport, 4:06.

Dees triumphs

MODESTO, California, May 6. (AP) Tony Dees turned the tables on his tumble.

The wind, however, was beyond his control.

Running with his right shoulder badly skinned from a fall at the wire of a relay race, Dees won the 110-metre hurdles yesterday at the 49th S-W Modesto Invitational track and field meet.

"That was my most focused race ever," said Dees, who won with a clocking of 13.09 seconds. "That was because of the shoulder."

The wind also came between Sheila Duda and a new American record in the women's triple jump. Already the American record-holder from Cal-Berkeley, Duda jumped a wind-aided 46 1-4 feet (14.1 metres).

Dees injured his shoulder when he lost his balance after a finish-line lean pushed him and the Florida Clippers onto even terms with Henry Thomas of the heavily favoured Santa Monica track club.

The two teams were declared co-champions with final times of 39.21.

Gardner triumphs

JEREZ, Spain, May 6. (Reuters) Australia's Wayne Gardner launched a furious attack on Wayne Rainey of the US to win the 500cc Spanish Motorcycling Grand Prix today.

Gardner seized the lead from Rainey on the 19th lap of the 29-lap race and forged ahead to win by seven seconds and move into second place behind the American in the World Championship standings.

Rainey piloted his Yamaha into an early lead in the 122.322-km race, with 1987 world champion Gardner and American Kevin Schwantz in pursuit.

Gardner, chasing hard on his Honda, narrowed the advantage and cut inside Rainey on a sharp curve to take the lead.

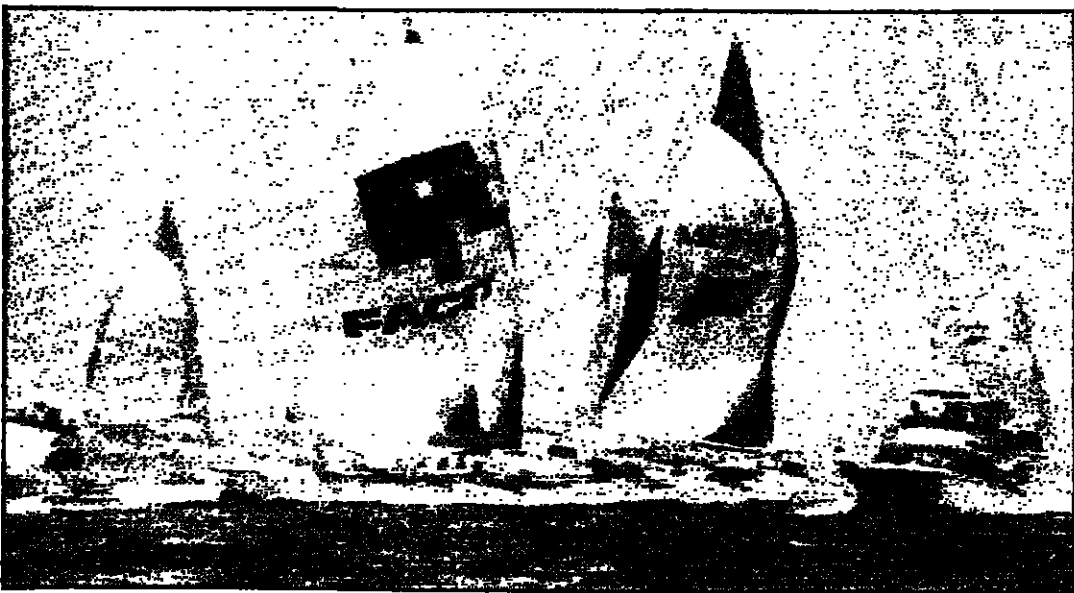
The Australian stretched away, with Rainey apparently unwilling to take risks.

Gardner clinched his 16th Grand Prix victory in 52 minutes 58.021 seconds at an average speed of 138.564 kph, with Rainey second and Schwantz third on his Suzuki. Australian Michael Doohan, who started in pole position, was fourth.

"It's a nice feeling to be back," said Gardner, whose confidence had taken a blow after spills at last month's US Grand Prix in Laguna Seca and practice in Jerez.

"It looked at times as if things weren't going to work," Rainey, still 20 points clear in the World Championship standings, was unruffled by defeat.

300 sailors start last Whitbread leg



Spectator boats escort the yachts as they begin the last leg. (Reuters wirephoto)

FT LAUDERDALE, Florida, May 6. (AP) More than 300 sailors on 22 yachts departed for England yesterday on the last leg of a 32,932 nautical-mile (60,990-kilometre) race around the globe.

Their final leg across the Gulf Stream to Southampton, England caps eight months of competition and life-threatening hazards including icebergs, whale attacks, 50-foot (15.25 metre) waves and ferocious gales.

An estimated 3,000 spectators gathered on the shores and in pleasure boats to watch the noon (1600 GMT) start of the Whitbread 'Round the world' race, and the swift custom-designed boats unfurled spinnakers to make the most of 15-knot winds.

The layover in Fort Lauderdale was the first stop in the United States in the history of the Whitbread, which has brought the world's premier offshore sailors to circumnavigate the globe every four years since 1973.



Winston driver

Ahmed Al Zahrani (right) takes a rest after his new Winston Toyota Corolla suffered a broken half-shaft at the end of the 5th stage of the Kuwait National Rally on Friday. Tareq Al Alyan won the rally.